

Buffy

the vampire slayer™

OMNIBUS

VOLUME 6



Buffy
the vampire slayer™
O M N I B U S





Buffy

the vampire slayer™

OMNIBUS

VOLUME 6

AMBER BENSON
CHYNNA CLUGSTON
JANE ESPENSON
TOM FASSBENDER
CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN
TERRY MOORE
JIM PASCOE
ERIC POWELL
JAMIE S. RICH
CLIFF RICHARDS
TOM SNIEGOSKI
ANDI WATSON
CHRISTIAN ZANIER

Based on the television series created by Joss Whedon.

Angel is based on the television series by Joss Whedon and David Greenwalt.

These stories take place during Buffy the Vampire Slayer Seasons Four and Five and Angel Season One.



DARK HORSE BOOKS®

Publisher MIKE RICHARDSON
Series Editor SCOTT ALLIE
Collection Editor SIERRA HAHN
Assistant Editors on Original Series MATT DRYER, MIKE CARRIGLITTO & ADAM GALLARDO
Collection Designers LIA RIBACCHI & HEIDI WHITCOMB
Cover Illustration PAUL LEE & BRIAN HORTON

Special thanks to Debbie Olshan at Twentieth Century Fox, David Compton at Glass House Graphics, Caroline Kallas, and George Snyder.

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER™ OMNIBUS VOLUME SIX

Buffy the Vampire Slayer™ & © 2000, 2001, 2002, 2009 Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation. All rights reserved. Buffy™ and all other prominently featured characters are trademarks of Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation. Dark Horse Books® and the Dark Horse logo are registered trademarks of Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the express written permission of Dark Horse Comics, Inc. Names, characters, places, and incidents featured in this publication either are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, institutions, or locales, without satiric intent, is coincidental.

This volume reprints

Buffy the Vampire Slayer (Angel/Wizard ½, originally published in 2000);
Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Jonathan, originally published January 2001;
Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Giles, originally published October 2000;
Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Lover's Walk, originally published February 2001;
Buffy the Vampire Slayer #29–30, originally published January and February 2001;
Angel #15–16, originally published January and February 2001;
Buffy the Vampire Slayer #31–34, originally published March through June 2001;
Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Willow and Tara, "Wannablessedbe," originally published April 2001;
Dark Horse Extra: Buffy the Vampire Slayer, "Demonology," originally published May and June 2002;
and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* #35–38, originally published July through November 2001;
all from Dark Horse Comics.

Published by Dark Horse Books
A division of Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222

darkhorse.com

To find a comics shop in your area, call the Comic Shop Locator Service toll-free at (888) 266-4226.

First edition: February 2009
ISBN 978-1-59582-242-0

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Printed in Hong Kong

INTRODUCTION

The oldest story here, “City of Despair,” was done for a promotional comic given out by *Wizard* magazine. This was Buffy’s first introduction to the new Angel—who now had his own show. Tom Fassbender and Jim Pascoe were the writers I was most excited about at the time, and this was just one fun little adventure.

Some of the most fun we ever had, though, was the *Jonathan* one-shot. In the “Superstar” episode of the show, Jonathan Levinson—the littlest nerd among the Big Bads of Season Six—mysteriously became the coolest cat in Sunnydale. To demonstrate that coolness, Joss wanted Jonathan to have his own comic in the show, so Dark Horse contributed some props, with covers drawn by Jeff Matsuda. Jane Espenson, who’d written “Superstar,” offered to continue what she’d started, and created an adventure set completely in that reality of Jonathan as superagent.

Around this time, I also realized my dream of doing a Giles comic. Chris Golden and Tom Sniegowski had brought Eric Powell into the fold for a couple issues of their *Angel* series, and I’d become a fan. The *Giles* one-shot was conceived around the idea of building Eric up with a heavily horror-themed issue. Eric’s become one of Dark Horse’s biggest stars, with his award-winning series *The Goon*.

Soon after, we did a romance-themed one-shot, “Lover’s Walk.” I wanted to establish Riley as a character, knowing that his relationship with Buffy was not popular with fans. Bringing P. Craig Russell in to ink Cliff Richards here made it popular with comics aficionados. I also wanted a Willow and Tara story, treating their relationship with the same simple dignity that Joss gave it on the show. Jamie Rich teamed with Chynna Clugston, who’d worked on *Buffy* before.

The opportunity to delve deeper into their relationship was presented when Chris Golden met Amber Benson, who had her own writing ambitions. Chris and Amber have worked together a lot since then, including a series of novels called *The Ghosts of Albion*, but “Wannablessedbe,” the first Willow and Tara comic, was their first collaboration. We were lucky to get Terry Moore, the creator of the fantastic *Strangers in Paradise* series, to draw the book. To bring a little extra Willow and Tara to the table, Andi Watson, the original writer of the *Buffy* comic, wrote and drew a short tale for the short-lived *Dark Horse Extra*.

The real *Buffy* and *Angel* crossover was a serious undertaking, and drove everyone nuts. I had the bright idea of doing the four issues across the spread of two months of the regular *Buffy* and *Angel* monthlies, ignoring the fact that we could have sold the hell out of a miniseries called *Buffy/Angel*, kicking off with a #1. But since I didn’t have a regular writer on the *Buffy* monthly at the time, and this would give both Christian Zanier, the artist on *Angel*, and Cliff, the artist on *Buffy*, a chance to handle both characters, it felt like a nice creative challenge.

Out of the Woodwork marked the beginning of Tom Fassbender and Jim Pascoe’s run as the regular writers on the monthly series, which gave us some of my favorite pre-Season Eight stories. We brought Dawn into the comic, and Fassbender and Pascoe’s second arc, *False Memories*, played with the idea that the characters would remember Dawn having been there in earlier adventures. I felt I was finally understanding what Joss was doing to elevate this genre stuff, so we took that supernatural notion of the false Dawn memories and explored the idea in more emotionally real ways for the characters. We re-created earlier scenes, giving Dawn significant roles in those scenes, thereby changing the spirit of what had happened. Readers have always been a little uncomfortable with the way the comic has inserted Dawn into the early years, but for me, not only does it make sense that characters would remember her being there, but it allowed us to do something the show never could—to go back.

Scott Allie

SHORT STORIES 7

Title page—CLIFF RICHARDS with
WILL CONRAD & DAN JACKSON

CITY OF DESPAIR. 9

Script—TOM FASSBENDER & JIM PASCOE
Pencils—CLIFF RICHARDS
Inks—ANDY OWENS
Colors—LEE LOUGHRIDGE
Letters—CLEM ROBINS

JONATHAN— CODENAME: COMRADES. . . . 25

Script—JANE ESPENSON
Pencils—CLIFF RICHARDS
Inks—ANDY OWENS
Colors—GUY MAJOR
Letters—CLEM ROBINS

GILES: BEYOND THE PALE . . . 51

Script—CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN
& TOM SNIEGOSKI
Art—ERIC POWELL
Colors—GUY MAJOR
Letters—PAT BROUSSEAU

ONE SMALL PROMISE 77

Script—TOM FASSBENDER & JIM PASCOE
Pencils—CLIFF RICHARDS
Inks—P. CRAIG RUSSELL
Colors—GUY MAJOR
Letters—CLEM ROBINS

PUNISH ME WITH KISSES. . . . 85

Script—JAMIE S. RICH & CHYNNA CLUGSTON
Art—CHYNNA CLUGSTON
Colors—GUY MAJOR
Letters—VICKIE WILLIAMS

PAST LIVES. 93

Title page—CHRISTIAN ZANIER with
KWL DESIGNS & DAVE STEWART
Script—CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN
& TOM SNIEGOSKI
Pencils—CHRISTIAN ZANIER
& CLIFF RICHARDS
Inks—JOE PIMENTEL & DIGITAL JUMP
Colors—LEE LOUGHRIDGE
Letters—CLEM ROBINS

OUT OF THE WOODWORK . 183

Title Page—CLIFF RICHARDS with
ANDY OWENS & DAVE MCCAIG
Script—TOM FASSBENDER & JIM PASCOE
Pencils—CLIFF RICHARDS
Inks—JOE PIMENTEL
Colors—DAVE MCCAIG
Letters—CLEM ROBINS

WILLOW & TARA 273

Title Page—TERRY MOORE & HIFI DESIGN

WANNABLESSEDBE 275

Script—AMBER BENSON
& CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN
inks—JOE PIMENTEL
Colors & Letters—HIFI DESIGN

DEMONOLOGY 297

Script & Art—ANDI WATSON

FALSE MEMORIES 299

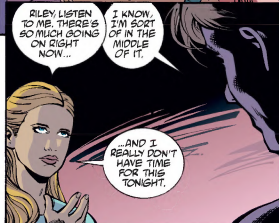
Title Page—CLIFF RICHARDS with
JOE PIMENTEL & DAVE MCCAIG
Script—TOM FASSBENDER & JIM PASCOE
Pencils—CLIFF RICHARDS
Inks—JOE PIMENTEL & WILL CONRAD
Colors—DAVE MCCAIG
Letters—CLEM ROBINS

Short Stories



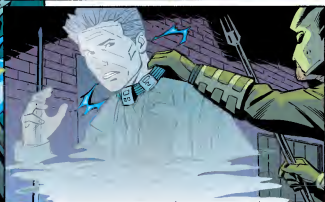
CLIFF
EDWARDS
© 1991
CONRAD
M.
JACKSON





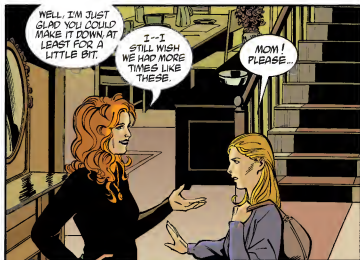
City of Despair







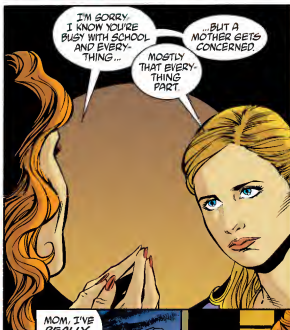
THANKS FOR DINNER, MOM, BUT I'VE GOT TO GO.



WELL, I'M JUST GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT DOWN, AT LEAST FOR A LITTLE BIT.

I--I STILL WISH WE HAD MORE TIMES LIKE THESE.

MOM! PLEASE...



I'M SORRY. I KNOW YOU'RE BUSY WITH SCHOOL AND EVERYTHING...

...BUT A MOTHER GETS CONCERNED.

MOSTLY THAT EVERYTHING PART.

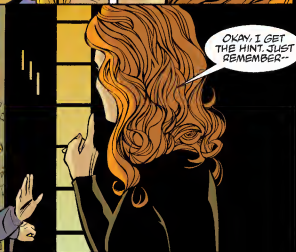


SOMETIMES I SIT HERE ALONE AND CAN'T HELP WONDERING: DO YOU HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED? ARE YOU EATING ENOUGH?

ARE YOU DATING?



MOM, I'VE REALLY GOT TO GO.



OKAY, I GET THE HINT. JUST REMEMBER--







HOW CAN YOU
RESIST THE
POWER OF
THIS PLACE?

YOU'RE ALWAYS
FILLED WITH
DIGNITY AND
HONOR--EVEN
WHEN FIGHTING
UNDER THE
STARE OF
ALL THOSE
EYES...



EVERY TIME I'M VICTORIOUS,
I KNOW I'M ONE STEP CLOSER
TO FREEDOM.
THAT'S MY
STRENGTH.

ONLY FOR
THOSE WHO
ARE WEAK.

BAH! THAT'S
MAGIC POISONING
YOUR MIND. THERE'S
NO FREEDOM HERE,
ONLY DEATH.



HEY!
WATCH THOSE
HANDS!



ANGEL?

WELL, WELL
JUST LIKE
OLD TIMES.





YEAH, BUT LET'S CATCH UP LATER. YOU WANT TO HELP ME FIGURE OUT WHERE IN THE HELL WE ARE?

OKAY, THEN, WE'LL GET DOWN TO BUSINESS. THIS ISN'T HELL, BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S EARTH EITHER. LOOK OUT THERE...



GLADIATORS? I HEAR THEY'RE ALL THE RAGE.

I GOT CAUGHT UP IN SOMETHING LIKE THIS BACK IN L.A., BUT NOWHERE NEAR THIS... ELABORATE



YOU'D BETTER LIKE TO FIGHT. EVERYONE FIGHTS HERE - LONELINESS, DESPAIR, BOREDOM. THERE'S NO ESCAPING IT.

UGH. NICE BREATH. BRUSH MUCH?



IT CAN'T BE... THE CITY OF DESPAIR. I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WAS A FABLE.

I'VE HEARD THAT BEFORE. THIS FABLE GIVE YOU ANY HINTS ON HOW WE GET OUT?

NOT REALLY. THE LEGEND SAYS A RACE OF DEMONS, THE GEFA'AR, SEARCH THE KNOWN WORLDS AND ABDUCT THE BEST FIGHTERS TO COMPETE FOR THEIR ENTERTAINMENT. AS THE STORY GOES, ONCE YOU'VE BEEN CAPTURED, THERE'S NO WAY BACK.



ARRGHHH





QUITE THE PERFORMANCE. BEEN WATCHING THE WWF?

SOMETHING THE NEW BOY-FRIEND IS INTO?



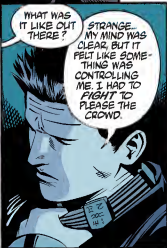
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS. LET'S STICK TO THE HERE AND NOW, PLEASE.

FINE.



WHAT WAS IT LIKE OUT THERE?

STRANGE... MY MIND WAS CLEAR, BUT IT FELT LIKE SOMETHING WAS CONTROLLING ME. I HAD TO FIGHT TO PLEASE THE CROWD.



WHAT YOU FELT WAS THE POWER OF THE COLLAR. IN THE RING, IT FEEDS ON YOUR ANGER AND GUILT. IN HERE, IT SAPS YOUR WILL. DO NOT LET IT BREAK YOUR SPIRIT. FIGHT IT!

LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU'RE NO BETTER OFF THAN WE ARE.

WHY IS EVERYONE GOING ALL OBI-WAN HERE? WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING...



BUT I AM KORI! AND I'M CLOSE TO BREAKING THE GEFAR'S MAGIC.

AND YOU'VE BEEN WORKING ON THIS PLAN HOW LONG?

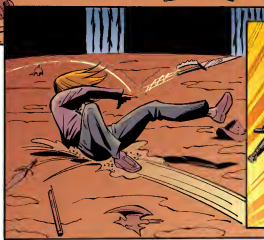
LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT FOR EACH FIGHTER WHO TRULY WIELDS HOPE, THAT'S ONE MORE WHO CAN CARVE THE PATH TO FREEDOM.

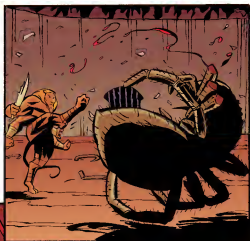
RELYING ON HOPE AND FAITH ISN'T MUCH OF A PLAN.

I SEE I CAN'T COUNT ON YOUR FRIEND TO HELP. WHAT ABOUT YOU?

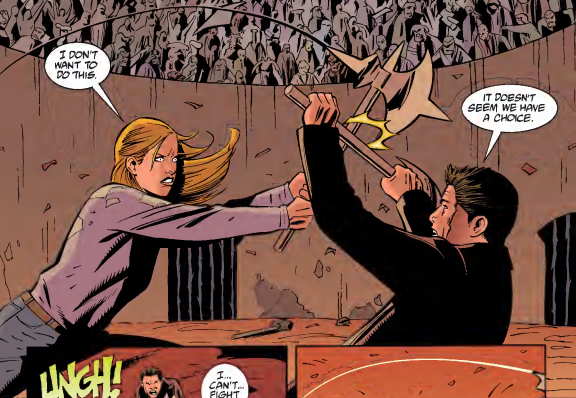
ALL I KNOW IS THAT I'VE GOT TOO MUCH TO WORRY ABOUT IN MY OWN LIFE TO DEAL WITH BEING HERE.











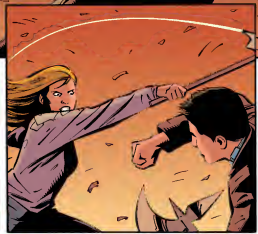
I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS.

IT DOESN'T SEEM WE HAVE A CHOICE.



UNGH!

I... CAN'T... FIGHT IT.



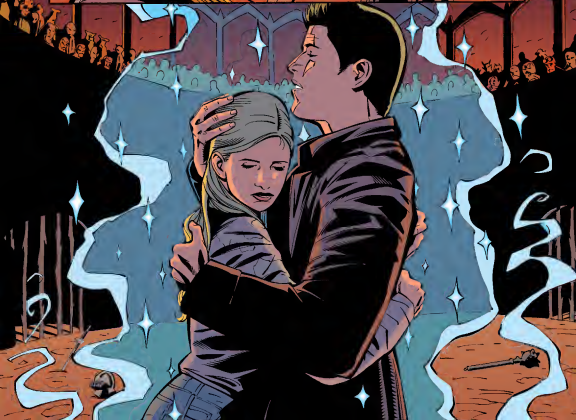
I DON'T KNOW MUCH LONGER I CAN RESIST.



NOT LONG ENOUGH--



I'M THROUGH WITH THIS.

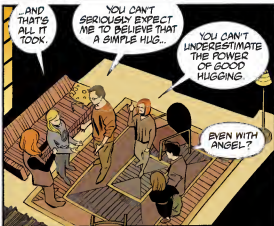




YOU WERE IN THE CITY OF DESPAIR, WEREN'T YOU?

YES. IT FEELS LIKE...A DREAM.

AND YOU ESCAPED. I DON'T THINK THAT'S EVER BEEN DONE BEFORE. HOW IN THE WORLD DID YOU MANAGE IT?

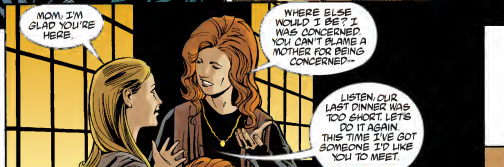


...AND THAT'S ALL IT TOOK.

YOU CAN'T SERIOUSLY EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT A SIMPLE HUG...

YOU CAN'T UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF GOOD HUGGING.

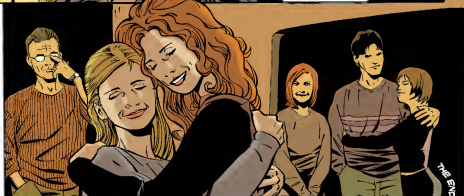
EVEN WITH ANGEL?



MOM, I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

WHERE ELSE WOULD I BE? I WAS CONCERNED. YOU CAN'T BLAME A MOTHER FOR BEING CONCERNED--

LISTEN, OUR LAST DINNER WAS TOO SHORT. LET'S DO IT AGAIN. THIS TIME I'VE GOT SOMEONE I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET.



JONATHAN—CODENAME: COMRADES



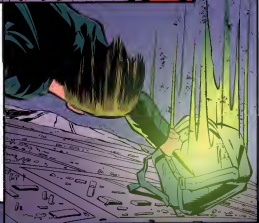
We may never know what spell a certain young man used to become a Superstar. But we can take a brief look inside the world of his creation. These events took place approximately one week before the alternate reality dissolved, and have been reconstructed from the Jonathan Levinson Case Files and a surviving copy of his autobiography. Quiet now, let's watch and learn.

Case number 75. It starts out simply enough. Save a kidnapped princess from a cadre of vampires spiriting her away on a small airplane...



Next thing you know, you're plummeting to earth with an armful of terrified princess and a disabled plane in a death spiral above you. Good thing there's a parachute.

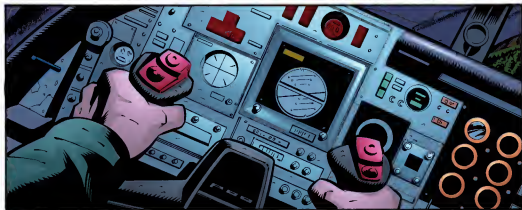
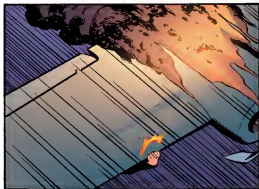




FOR ME? BUT...
WHAT ABOUT
YOU?

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
ME...

I'VE GOT
A PLANE TO
CATCH.





Her father is the king of a small European country. He was thrilled to have her back safely. He offered me an Ambassadorship. But my duty lies in Sunnydale.

OH, JONATHAN!



The Slayer was there. She is indispensable to any successful mission.

HOT TOWEL?



WERE YOU SCARED? I'D HAVE BEEN SCARED CHUTELESS!

GET IT?

I think she made a joke. I didn't hear it. I was distracted by what I held in my hand.



A Soviet insignia. A very specific one. The image, the implications of it, made my blood run cold. This world, my world — I knew it wouldn't come cheap. Was this the price I would pay?



The symbol stayed with me, burned into my brain that night. Even giving a benefit performance of my Tony award-winning one-man show couldn't shake the feeling.



I couldn't sleep.



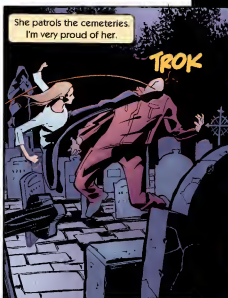
The feeling that something very big was on its way.

YONATHAN?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

SHUSH, ILSA, HIS TROUBLES ARE NOT OURS TO KNOW





*TRANSLATED FROM THE RUSSIAN



(I AM ALSO HERE.)

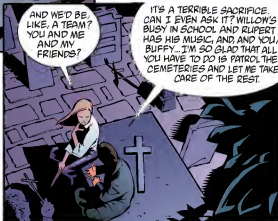


NO!



The vampire's words had chilled me to my marrow. I came here unsure of what I would say to Buffy. But now I knew.

OH, JONATHAN!



AND WE'D BE, LIKE, A TEAM? YOU AND ME AND MY FRIENDS?

IT'S A TERRIBLE SACRIFICE. CAN I EVEN ASK IT? WILLOW'S BUSY IN SCHOOL AND RUPERT HAS HIS MUSIC, AND AND YOU, BUFFY... I'M SO GLAD THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS PATROL THE CEMETERIES AND LET ME TAKE CARE OF THE REST.



JONATHAN, THAT'S ALL I'VE EVER DONE. WHAT ELSE COULD I DO?

WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT.

And so, before the dawn, it happened. I had to remind myself that for them, this was the "first" meeting.

IT'S UP TO YOU, IF YOU WANT TO JOIN ME. I KNOW YOU ALL HAVE LIVES TO LEAD AND THIS IS MORE THAN I CAN REQUIRE OF ANY OF YOU. PLEASE KNOW THAT IT HURTS MY SOUL TO LEAD YOU INTO DANGER.

SO IF WE GO WITH YOU, WE GET TO SEE YOU IN ACTION? CLOSE UP? SKIN SHINING WITH SWEAT, AND MUSCLES ALL CLENCHED WITH EFFORT?

ANYA AND ME ARE IN.

WAIT.

JONATHAN, I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU MIGHT NEED BUFFY'S HELP BUT I'M NOT EVEN HER WATCHER ANYMORE, AND THE OTHERS... WHY THIS GROUP?

IT FEELS RIGHT, THOUGH, DOESN'T IT? LIKE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE TOGETHER? WE COULD EVEN HAVE A NAME TEAM JONATHAN OR JONATHAN'S SQUAD--

JONATHAN'S INNO-CENT BYSTANDERS KILLED IN BATTLE THAT'S MORE LIKE IT. MAYBE IT FEELS RIGHT TO THE WITCH, BUT I SMELL A DEATH TRAP AND I'M GETTING OUT.

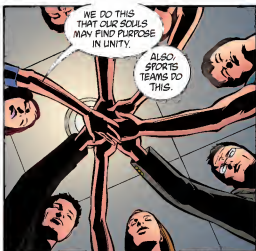
AND IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU, BETTY, YOU'LL GET OUT TOO.

IT'S BUFFY!

The worst part is, I knew he was right. They'd have to be crazy to agree to help.



IN AN ANCIENT RITUAL OF COMMITMENT AND CONFLUENCE, LET US JOIN HANDS.



WE DO THIS THAT OUR SOULS MAY FIND PURPOSE IN UNITY.

ALSO, SPORTS TEAMS DO THIS.



It was a relief to finally speak of what I knew was coming.

I TOOK THIS SYMBOL OFF A VAMPIRE.



THIS IS THE SYMBOL OF THE ZADAMIYE. IT'S RUSSIAN FOR "TASK."

SO IT'S LIKE, WHAT? A RUSSIAN FLOOR WAX?



ZADAMIYE, "ZADA" FOR SHORT, WAS A TOP-SECRET SOVIET PROJECT OF THE 1980s. HOUSED UNDER A MOUNTAIN, SHIELDED FROM ALL EYES, THE WORK TOOK PLACE...

"IT WAS THE ORIGINAL INSPIRATION FOR THE INITIATIVE. THEY CAPTURED DEMONS AND VAMPS, EXPERIMENTED ON THEM, ENHANCED THEM."



"UNLIKE THE U.S. INITIATIVE, THE ZADA DID NOT MAKE THEIR SUBJECTS UNABLE TO ATTACK HUMANS. IN FACT, THEY WERE VERY MUCH IN TRAINING FOR FUTURE BATTLES AGAINST AMERICA'S FIGHTING MEN AND WOMEN.

"IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ONE HELL OF A WAR.



"BUT ONE DAY THE GUARDS AND SCIENTISTS CAME NO MORE.

"YEARS PASSED...

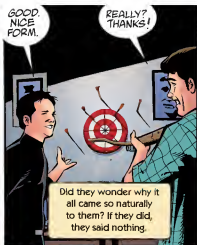
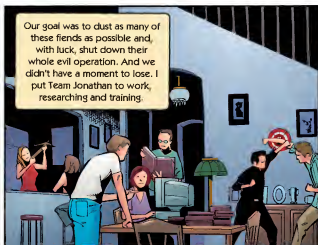


"WITH THE SOVIET UNION CRUMBLING, THE LAB WAS ABANDONED. IT WAS ASSUMED THE CREATURES HAD DEVoured EACH OTHER. BUT NOW IT SEEMS THAT SOME--THE STRONGEST--HAVE SURVIVED AND ESCAPED.

"AND NOW SOME OF THEM HAVE FOUND THEIR WAY TO SUNNYDALE."

THESE ARE NOT NORMAL VAMPIRES. THEY ARE THE MAFIA OF THE UNDEAD. THEY HAVE MONEY, STRENGTH, INTELLIGENCE, AND NOW THEY SEEK THE PRIMAL FORCE BENEATH SUNNYDALE. IF THEY SUCCEED, THEY WILL WIELD THEIR POWER LIKE A CUDGEL, AND THEY WILL MAKE THE WORLD SUBMIT.





Sunnydale High. Full of memories for all of us. They couldn't know that my memories were so very different from theirs.

EVEN
THE CLOCK
TOWER IS
GONE.

GOOD.

KRK

Somehow I knew we
wouldn't be coming
back out this way.

That would
be too easy.

SKRK



BE VERY
QUIET, EVERY-
ONE. THEY
COULD BE
ANYWHERE.

I WANT TO
BE NEXT TO
JONATHAN

IT'S MY
TURN!



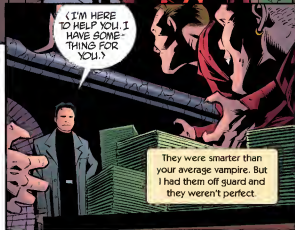
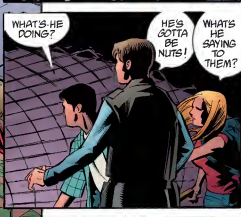
OKAY, NOW, THE SEWER
MAP'S A LITTLE HARD TO READ,
BUT WE'RE DEFINITELY AT THE
JUNCTION CLOSEST TO THE
HELLMOUTH...OR POSSIBLY
IN FRANCE.



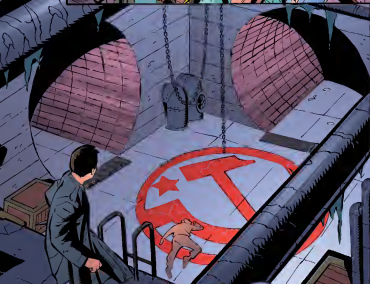
OOF!
GIVE SOME
WARNING!

<FRIGHTEN
THE HUMANS, KILL
THEM, BUY THEM...
ALLEGIANCE IS AT
HAND!>

WE'VE
FOUND THEM.
NOW IT
BEGIN.



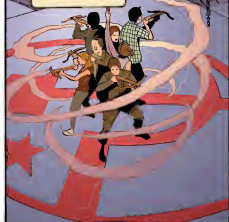




I prepared us as well as I could, using the skills the others brought to the game.

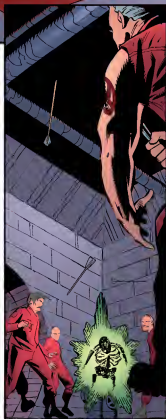
The spell would make us invisible to non-human eyes, for as long as the candle burned. If it worked.

BEND THE LIGHT,
OBSCURE THE AIR,
RENDER US
SHADOWS THAT
DART AT THE EDGES
OF SIGHT...



JONATHAN!
I'M RUNNING
OUT OF
ARROWS!

WE STILL HAVE A
CHANCE. WE HAVE
THE ADVANTAGE
OF INVISIBILITY AS
LONG AS THAT
CANDLE BURNS.



HEY!



IT SEEMS WE
WILL HAVE TO
IMPROVISE.

Mayhem. I was in my
element. I unleashed
my fists of fury.

WHACK

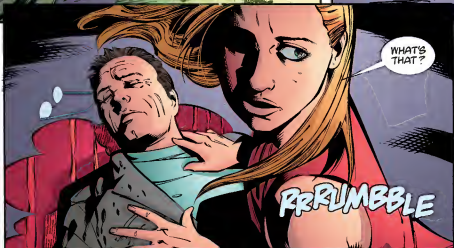
SMACK

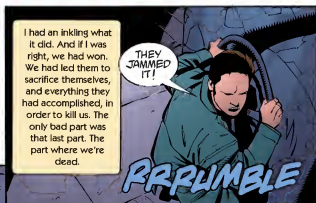
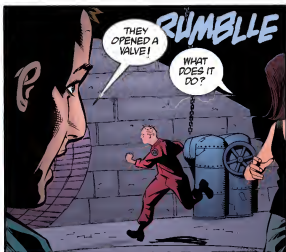
FWOOSH

DOF!

WAP KRAK









WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

BAM
BAM
BAM

PRUMBLE



HEY! THAT'S PROBABLY WEAKENED THE CEILING-- OH, I GET IT.

PRUMBLE



CHUNK

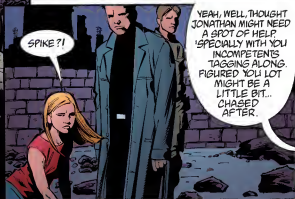


HOW IS HE?

TOLD YOU SOMEONE'D GET HURT, DIDN'T I?



BAD BUSINESS FROM THE START.



SPIKE?!

YEAH, WELL, THOUGHT JONATHAN MIGHT NEED A SNOT OF HELP. 'SPECIALLY WITH YOU INCOMPETENTS TAGGING ALONG. FIGURED YOU LOT MIGHT BE A LITTLE BIT... CHASED AFTER.



NOTHING'S CHASING US! WE KICKED THEIR BUTTS! THEY HAD TO FLOOD THEIR OWN OPERATION!

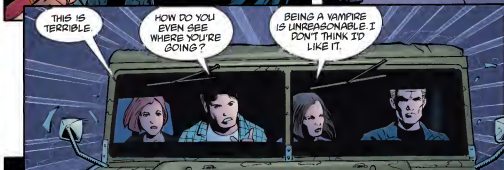
SHE'S RIGHT, SPIKE. THEY DROWNED THEMSELVES RATHER THAN FACE MY TEAM.

HUH. MY BAD. ON MY WAY THEN.

I SAY...



COULD... COULD TAKE ME TO... HOSPITAL... EERRRAH...



THIS IS TERRIBLE

HOW DO YOU EVEN SEE WHERE YOU'RE GOING?

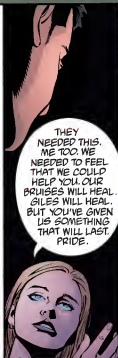
BEING A VAMPIRE IS UNREASONABLE. I DON'T THINK I'D LIKE IT.

I felt fortunate to have my medical knowledge at a time like this, but I couldn't help but feel that this was my fault. How much had I taken away from this man, from all of them, by pulling them back into my world? They weren't even prepared with memories of having done it before. Is it any wonder that I was surprised when Buffy said:



THANK YOU.

EERRRAH.



THEY NEEDED THIS. ME TOO. WE NEEDED TO FEEL THAT WE COULD HELP YOU. OUR BRUISES WILL HEAL. GILES WILL HEAL. BUT YOU'VE GIVEN US SOMETHING THAT WILL LAST. PRIDE.

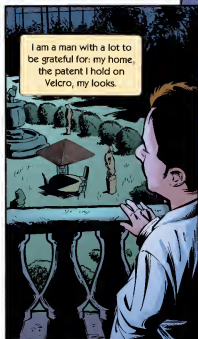


The way she said it was ... well, frankly, it was a little overwritten, but I could tell she meant it.

THANK YOU, BUFFY.

I didn't kiss her.

She isn't ready yet.



I am a man with a lot to be grateful for: my home, the patent I hold on Velcro, my looks.



And I know, I know without a doubt, there will be a price to pay for all of it. But it is enough to know that I won't have to pay that price tonight...



And to know that I have a team. No, better than that... I know that I have friends. And that means everything.



Tonight...



Tonight I will sleep.

LONDON,
ENGLAND.
2000.

Giles: Beyond the Pale



HMM.
INTERESTING.
NOTHING
ABOUT THIS
IN THE
CATALOG.

BIG WOODEN
BOX, SURE, BUT
NOT A WORD
ABOUT THE
CONTENTS.

DID YOU SAY
SOMETHING,
THORTON?

I'VE JUST
BEEN GOING
THROUGH SOME
OF THE MORE
OBSCURE
WATCHERS'
JOURNALS.



THERE'S A FASCINATING BIT IN HERE ABOUT GWELAC THE HORRID. THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS IN THESE ARCHIVES AND I'M STILL FINDING THINGS THAT'VE SLIPPED THROUGH THE CRACKS.

MY THOUGHTS PRECISELY, MR. LASSITER. HAVE A LOOK AT THIS. CAN'T QUITE GET THE DIALECT, BUT IT'S SOMETHING LIKE... "THAT WHICH DEMONS FEAR."

DO YOU THINK IT'S A WARD AGAINST DEMONS OR--

Pre-Human?
Unintelligible
dialect

ward
against
demons?

GOOD
GOD, MAN!
WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE? YOU
MAY HAVE
DOOMED US
ALL!

YEEAAARRHHH!



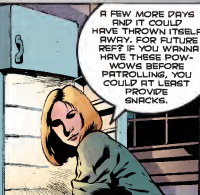
NOW, THAT'S DISGUSTING. HOW'S A GROWING SLAYER SUPPOSED TO STAY BIG AND STRONG ON TEA, SCONES, AND CHEF BOY-AR-DEE?



ARE THESE LEFTOVERS, OR THE DEMONIC EQUIVALENT OF SEA MONKEYS?



ACTUALLY, I QUITE FORGOT THAT WAS IN THERE.



A FEW MORE DAYS AND IT COULD HAVE THROWN ITSELF AWAY. FOR FUTURE REF? IF YOU WANNA HAVE THESE POW-WOWS BEFORE PATROLLING, YOU COULD AT LEAST PROVIDE SNACKS.



I'LL DO MY BEST TO REMEMBER THAT, BUFFY.



THOUGH I'M FORCED TO WONDER WHY YOU DON'T SIMPLY EAT ON CAMPUS WITH EVERYONE ELSE.

HAVE YOU EVER EATEN AMERICAN COLLEGE FOOD? YOU WANT TO SEE FORCES OF DARKNESS, THERE YA GO. I'LL CHECK IN LATER ON.



HELLO? OH, YES, MICHELE, WHAT A LOVELY ...WHAT IS IT?

ARCHIE LASSITER. OH, HELL.



"WHAT DO YOU MEAN HE'S COMING HERE?"



SIMPLY THIS, MR. TRAVERS. HE WAS QUITE CLOSE TO ARCHE LASSITER, AS I'M SURE YOU RECALL. I THOUGHT HE HAD THE RIGHT TO KNOW.



YOU HAVE BEEN IN A GOOD DEAL OF TROUBLE WITH US YOURSELF OF LATE, MISS TOMASI. ONE WOULD IMAGINE YOU WOULD BE ATTEMPTING TO WIN BACK OUR GOOD WILL.

IT IS HARDLY YOUR PLACE TO REVEAL COUNCIL BUSINESS TO AN OUTSIDER.



AN OUTSIDER! RUPERT GILES MAY NO LONGER BE EMPLOYED BY THE COUNCIL, BUT HE IS HARDLY AN OUTSIDER.

AND THE DEATH OF HIS DEAR FRIEND AND FORMER MENTOR IS HARDLY "COUNCIL BUSINESS." THE MAN IS DEAD, MR. TRAVERS. CAN YOU NOT ALLOW HIS FRIENDS TO MOURN HIM?



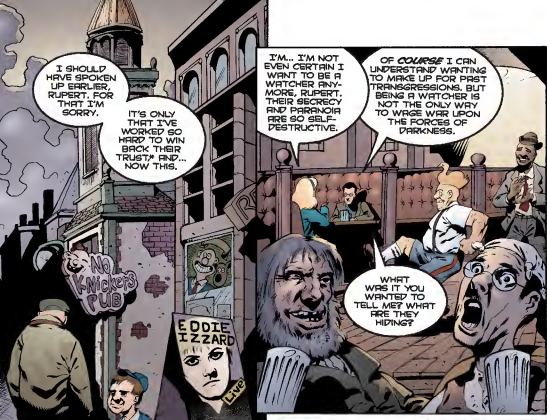
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE FOR IT NOW. AS LONG AS YOU REALIZE THAT YOU ARE FORBIDDEN TO DISCUSS THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING--

BEGGING YOUR PARDON, DIRECTORS. MR. GILES HAS ARRIVED AND HE IS INSISTING--



*SEE BUFFY: THE BLOOD OF CARTHAGE, #21-#25





*SEE THE GATEKEEPER TRILOGY FROM POCKET BOOKS



YOU REALIZE THAT YOU'RE LIKELY THROWING AWAY ANY CHANCE OF REDEEMING YOURSELF WITH THE COUNCIL?

MY REDEMPTION WON'T COME FROM THEM. NOW HUSH, AND PRETEND YOU BELONG HERE.



HELLO, ROGER. QUIET NIGHT?

QUIET AS A TOMB, MISS TOMASI. BARELY KEEP MY EYES OPEN.



ARCHIE HAD A NEW ASSISTANT, THORTON WHITNEY.

BOTH OF THEM WERE REJECTED, WHITNEY WORST OF ALL. ARCHIE HAD TO KILL HIM THAT FIRST NIGHT.



WHATEVER IT WAS INFECTED ARCHIE.

A COUPLE OF WATCHERS HEARD SCREAMING AND WENT DOWN INTO THE ARCHIVES JUST IN TIME TO SEE ARCHIE SHOOT HIMSELF.



APPARENTLY, WHEN THEY REACHED HIM, HE WASN'T QUITE DEAD YET.



THE INFECTION SPREAD. THE COUNCIL WAS ABLE TO QUARANTINE THE TWO, KEEP IT FROM AFFECTING ANYONE ELSE, BUT FOR ALAN AND BARBARA...



IT WAS TOO LATE.

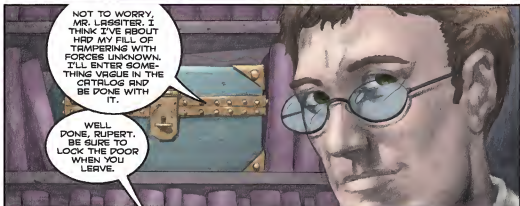
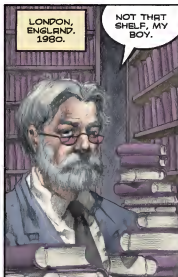


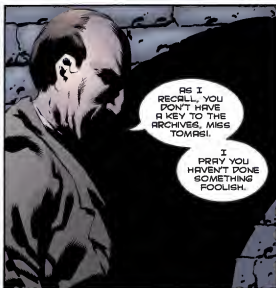
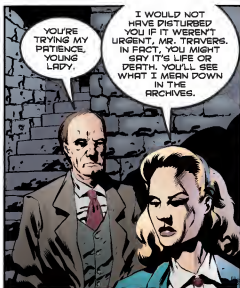
RUPERT, ARE YOU ALL--?

DAMN THEIR SECRETS. GOD HELP US ALL, BUT I KNOW WHAT THIS IS.



WE MUST HURRY. THERE'S NO TELLING HOW MUCH TIME WE HAVE LEFT.







OH, DO SHUT
UP. WHAT WAS
YOUR PLAN?
A WELCOME-
HOME PARTY
FOR THE ELDER
GODS?

I'VE NO IDEA
WHAT YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT.
IT'S TIME YOU
BOTH LEAVE,
BEFORE I HAVE
YOU ARREST--



YOU
ARROGANT
FOOL. I'D LIKE
TO SEE YOU TRY
TO HAVE US
REMOVED. IF WHAT
RUPERT TOLD ME
IS TRUE, YOUR OWN
SECRECY MAY HAVE
BROUGHT THE
APOCALYPSE.



I'VE GOT IT HALF
FIGURED ALREADY,
QUENTIN. THIS
ASSISTANT,
WHITNEY? HE RE-
PRODUCED THE SIGIL
ON THE KEY, SUM-
MONING THE OLD
ONES, AND WAS
TAINED BY
THEM.

BUT
WHERE IS
THE KEY?



ALL RIGHT, RUPERT.
YOU'RE CORRECT.
YOUNG WHITNEY
TRACED THE SIGIL,
UNWARE THAT
DOING SO WAS AN
INVITATION TO THE
ELDER GODS. BOY
NEVER DID READ
DIRECTIONS.

BUT WE'VE
GOT THE SITUATION
WELL IN HAND, NOW.
WE ARE THE
WATCHERS COUNCIL,
AFTER ALL. THE
MEDALLION... THE
KEY... IS IN A SAFE
PLACE, WELL AWAY
FROM HERE.



DAMN
YOU FOR
A FOOL!

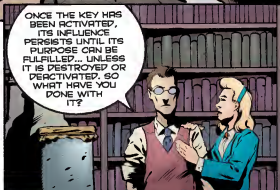
YOU'RE NOT
LISTENING,
QUENTIN!



IT'S PATENTLY OBVIOUS THAT YOU HAVE NEVER READ THE SCROLL OF AMON-RATHNA. IF YOU HAD, YOU WOULD NOT BE SO PROUD OF YOURSELF.

WHEN I WORKED FOR ARCHIE LASSITER, I READ THE SCROLL. BROKE THE RULES, BUT DIDN'T I ALWAYS?

I HAD MADE MY MISTAKES, AND I WAS CAUTIOUS BY THEN, CAUTIOUS ENOUGH TO TRANSLATE THE WHOLE THING BEFORE I TOUCHED THE KEY.



ONCE THE KEY HAS BEEN ACTIVATED, ITS INFLUENCE PERSISTS UNTIL ITS PURPOSE CAN BE FULFILLED... UNLESS IT IS DESTROYED OR DEACTIVATED. SO WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH IT?



WE WERE TOLD THAT IT COULD ONLY BE DESTROYED BY ARCAINE MEANS. GRAHAM LOCKE WAS TO DO THE JOB BACK AT HIS FLAT, SOMETHING ABOUT ALCHEMICAL TEXTS.

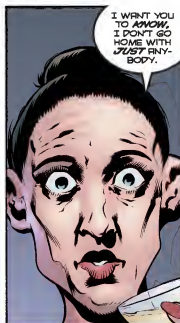


I'M AFRAID WE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH MR. LOCKE.

I DO NOT FAIL TO APPRECIATE THE IRONY, RUPERT. YOUR... REBELLIOUS NATURE MAY HAVE SAVED US. BUT IT *IS* A COUNCIL PROBLEM. AND YOU ARE NO LONGER A PART OF THIS COUNCIL. YOUR ASSISTANCE IS NOTED, BUT NO LONGER NECESSARY. WE WILL HANDLE IT.



YES, OF COURSE. YOU'VE DONE SUCH A WONDERFUL JOB THUS FAR.



I WANT YOU TO *KNOW*, I DON'T GO HOME WITH *JUST ANYBODY*.

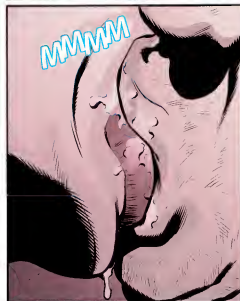


OF COURSE YOU DON'T.

THERE'S GOT TO BE A SPECIAL SOMETHING BETWEEN ME AND A MAN BEFORE I EVEN *THINK* TO GIVE HIM THE TIME OF DAY.



YES, A SPECIAL SOMETHING, EXACTLY.



I *REALLY* DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOT- TEN *INTO* ME, LOVE. THERE'S JUST *SOME- THING* ABOUT YOU.



MORE THAN
YOU KNOW,
DARLING.

I LIKE A
MAN WITH
A LITTLE
MYSTERY.



I'M ALL
ABOUT
MYSTERY.

MMMM.



I REALLY
DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S GOTTEN
INTO ME, LOVE.
THERE'S JUST
SOMETHING
ABOUT YOU.

HEH.







I'M
INTRIGUED,
RUPERT...

...I
CONFESS I'M
UNFAMILIAR
WITH THIS
SPELL.



I'M
ALSO JUST
THE TINIEST
BIT CONCERNED
ABOUT MY
FLOOR.



IT'S A RELATIVELY
OBSCURE SPELL IN-
VOLVING THE GODDESS
THESPIA. BUT IT SHOULD
SUIT OUR NEEDS QUITE
NICELY. AS FOR THE
FLOOR, A LITTLE SOAP
AND WATER SHOULD
DO THE TRICK.



THESPIA, WE WALK
IN SHADOW, WALK
IN BLINDNESS. YOU
ARE THE PRO-
TECTOR OF THE
NIGHT.

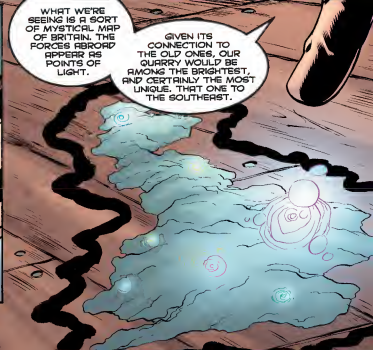
THESPIA, GODDESS,
RULER OF ALL
DARKNESS, OPEN
A WINDOW TO
THE WORLD OF
THE UNDER-
BEING.



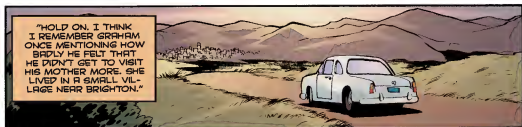
FWOOSH

WHAT WE'RE
SEEING IS A SORT
OF MYSTICAL MAP
OF BRITAIN. THE
FORCES ABROAD
APPEAR AS
POINTS OF
LIGHT.

GIVEN ITS
CONNECTION TO
THE OLD ONES, OUR
QUARRY WOULD BE
AMONG THE BRIGHTEST,
AND CERTAINLY THE MOST
UNIQUE. THAT ONE TO
THE SOUTHEAST.



"HOLD ON. I THINK I REMEMBER GRAHAM ONCE MENTIONING HOW BADLY HE FELT THAT HE DIDN'T GET TO VISIT HIS MOTHER MORE. SHE LIVED IN A SMALL VILLAGE NEAR BRIGHTON."



WELL, THIS IS... QUARINT.

IF THAT'S YOUR WAY OF SAYING GERILY DESERTED, I'D HAVE TO AGREE. WHAT DO YOU THINK HAS HAPPENED TO EVERYONE?



THERE'S NO WAY TO BE CERTAIN.



LET'S JUST MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T HAPPEN TO US.



IF I MADE SENSE OF THAT MAP, MRS. LOCKE'S HOUSE OUGHT TO BE JUST UP THIS WAY.



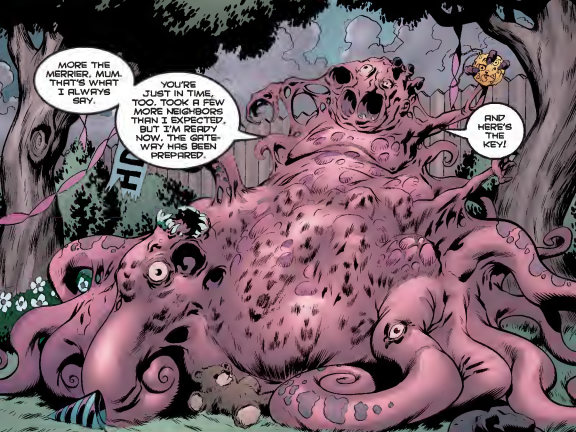
AREN'T THE WEAPONS A BIT CONSPICUOUS?

KNOCK KNOCK



HAVE A LOOK AROUND, I DON'T THINK ANYONE'S GOING TO MIND.





MORE THE
MERRIER, MUM.
THAT'S WHAT
I ALWAYS
SAY.

YOU'RE
JUST IN TIME,
TOO. TOOK A FEW
MORE NEIGHBORS
THAN I EXPECTED,
BUT I'M READY
NOW. THE GATE-
WAY HAS BEEN
PREPARED.

AND
HERE'S
THE
KEY!

IS IT
TOO LATE,
DO YOU
THINK?

NOT
UNTIL THE
GATEWAY IS
OPENED AND
THE FIRST OF
THE OLD ONES
HAS COME
THROUGH.

YOU'RE A
FOOL, RIPPER.
YOU NEVER
HAD A CHANCE.
MY MASTERS
CREATED THIS
UNIVERSE.

BANISHED TO
ANOTHER DIMENSION,
MY MASTERS HAVE
LANGUISHED BEYOND
THE PALE FOR THE
CHANCE TO RETURN
AND LAY CLAIM TO
WHAT IS THEIRS, TO
TWIST AND RESHAPE
IT INTO THEIR
IMAGE.

THE KEY
TURNS. THE
MOMENT
HAS
COME.



IT IS
NOT
TOO LATE,
MICRELA.

NOT
UNTIL THE
ELDER GODS
BEGIN TO
EMERGE!

WE MUST
SEIZE THE
KEY OF AMON-
RATHNA!



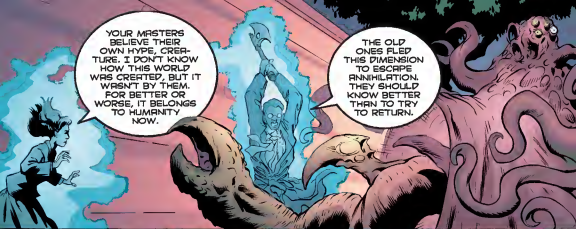
RUPERT...
HE'S TOO
STRONG. THEY
ARE FEEDING
HIM THEIR
POWER.

CAN YOU SHIELD
ME? CONTAIN MY
ESSENCE SO THAT
I WON'T BE
INFECTED BY
THEIR TRAIT?

JUST DO
IT. AND
STAND
READY.

I THINK
SO, BUT
WHAT ARE
YOU--?





YOUR MASTERS BELIEVE THEIR OWN HYPE, CREATURE. I DON'T KNOW HOW THIS WORLD WAS CREATED, BUT IT WASN'T BY THEM. FOR BETTER OR WORSE, IT BELONGS TO HUMANITY NOW.

THE OLD ONES FLED THIS DIMENSION TO ESCAPE ANNIHILATION. THEY SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO TRY TO RETURN.



FOOLS! THEY ARE TERROR UNIMAGINABLE. I AM THE DOORWAY. LOOK UPON THEM AND BE DRIVEN TO MADNESS.

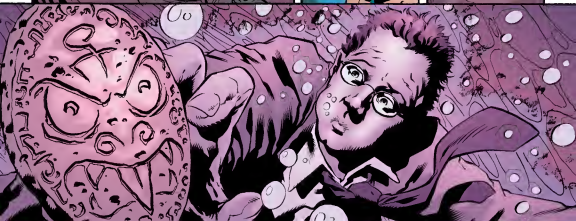
UNGCHH!

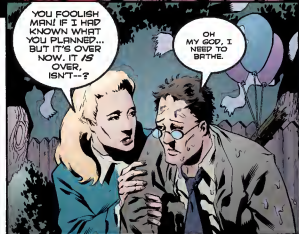


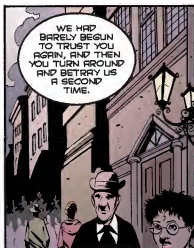
YOU'LL NOT HAVE ME, CREATURE. NOT EVER.



SPLURCHH!



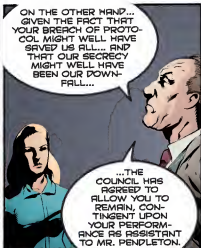




WE HAD
BARELY BEGUN
TO TRUST YOU
AGAIN, AND THEN
YOU TURN AROUND
AND BETRAY US
A SECOND
TIME.

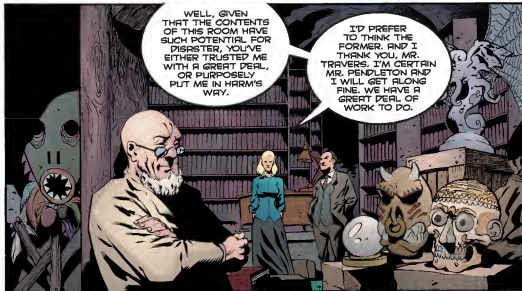


INVOLVING
RUPERT GILES
IN COUNCIL
BUSINESS WAS AN
UNFATHOMABLE
BREACH OF
ETIQUETTE, NOT
TO MENTION OUR
SECURITY.



ON THE OTHER HAND...
GIVEN THE FACT THAT
YOUR BREACH OF PROTO-
COL MIGHT WELL HAVE
SAVED US ALL... AND
THAT OUR SECRECY
MIGHT WELL HAVE
BEEN OUR DOWN-
FALL...

...THE
COUNCIL HAS
AGREED TO
ALLOW YOU TO
REMAIN, CON-
TINGENT UPON
YOUR PERFORM-
ANCE AS ASSISTANT
TO MR. PENDLETON.



WELL, GIVEN
THAT THE CONTENTS
OF THIS ROOM HAVE
SUCH POTENTIAL FOR
DISASTER, YOU'VE
EITHER TRUSTED ME
WITH A GREAT DEAL,
OR PURPOSELY
PUT ME IN HARM'S
WAY.

I'D PREFER
TO THINK THE
FORMER. AND I
THANK YOU, MR.
TRIVERS. I'M CERTAIN
MR. PENDLETON AND
I WILL GET ALONG
FINE. WE HAVE A
GREAT DEAL OF
WORK TO DO.



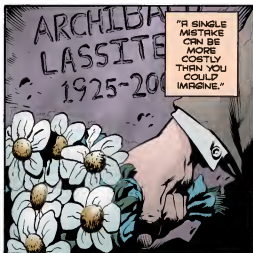
INDEED WE
DO, YOUNG
LADY, INDEED
WE DO.

WITHIN
THESE WALLS
THERE ARE ITEMS
OF HORRIBLE
POWER, BUT TO
KEEP THEM SAFE,
WE MUST FIRST
UNDERSTAND
THEM. EXAMINE
THEM--



EXAMINE
THEM ALL YOU
WANT, MR.
PENDLETON.

JUST DO IT
CAREFULLY.



"A SINGLE MISTAKE CAN BE MORE COSTLY THAN YOU COULD IMAGINE."



"I'M SO SORRY YOU LOST YOUR FRIEND, GILES."

"THANK YOU, BUFFY. THE MOST TRAGIC PART OF IT IS THAT IT DID NOT HAVE TO HAPPEN AT ALL."



"ARCHIE WAS PART OF A CULTURE OF PARANOIA AND ONE-UPSMANSHIP. SO WAS I, FOR A TIME. THE COUNCIL SOMETIMES FORGETS THAT THIS IS NOT A CONTEST, OR A GAME. IT IS A WAR."



"THE FORCES OF DARKNESS ARE ALWAYS AROUND US, JUST BEYOND THE EDGES OF OUR VISION, WAITING FOR AN OPENING... AN OPPORTUNITY TO INSINUATE THEMSELVES INTO THIS WORLD."

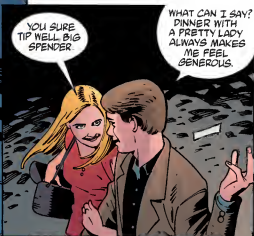
"THOSE WHO STAND AGAINST THE DARK MUST BAND TOGETHER, TRUST ONE ANOTHER, AND SHARE WHAT FEW SIMPLE WEAPONS WE HAVE."

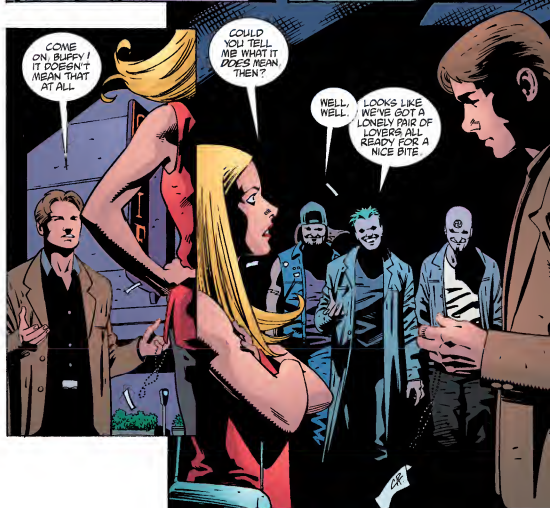


"THE ALTERNATIVE-- THE DISASTER THAT WOULD RESULT IF WHAT LURKS BEYOND SHOULD EVER RETURN-- WELL, IT'S SIMPLY..."

"...UNIMAGINABLE."

One Small Promise







IT MEANS.
IT DOESN'T
MEAN ANY-
THING!

WH-WH-
WHY
AREN'T YOU
PUTTING
IT ON?

OKAY, OKAY.
HERE'S ME...
PUTTING ON MY
NECKLACE.

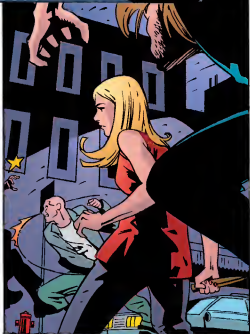
OH,
PLEASE, DON'T
PATRONIZE
ME.

EXCUSE
ME, WE'RE
ATTACKING
YOU...

PATRONIZE?

YOU VAMPIRES
ARE SO ALIKE--
RUN! SCREAM! BE
SCARED! CAN'T YOU SEE
WE'RE HAVING A MOMENT
HERE? AT LEAST WE WERE
UNTIL ONE OF US DECIDED
TO GET ALL UNGRATE-
FUL ON ME.









LET'S
NEVER FIGHT
AGAIN.

LAUR

GUCCY

THE
END
awwwwww

"YOU SEE, THERE'S THIS FLOWER, WILL. THE SNOW FLOWER. IT'S BEAUTIFUL, BRIGHT RED, AND LOOKS LIKE A BURST OF FLAME."

"IT'S RARE, THOUGH, AND IT ONLY GROWS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, AND IT ONLY GROWS IN THE SNOW."

"BECAUSE IT WOULD BE SILLY TO CALL IT THAT IF IT DIDN'T."

"AND THIS ISN'T A SILLY FLOWER. IT'S A GOOD FLOWER. IN FACT, IT'S SO RARE THEY FINE YOU \$500 IF THEY CATCH YOU PICKING IT."

"SHEESH, YARA. IT BETTER BE SOME FLOWER."

"BUT THERE'S AN EVEN RARER FORM OF IT, WHICH ONLY BLOSSOMS IN THE DAWN OF THE FINAL THAW. ITS PETALS ARE MORE INTRICATE. THEY'RE RED, MOTTLED WITH YELLOW."

"YOU HAVE TO BE THERE RIGHT WHEN IT BLOSSOMS, JUST AS THE SUN TOUCHES IT. IF YOU WANT TO PICK THIS SNOW FLOWER, AS SOON AS THE SUN REACHES FULL BRIGHTNESS, IT WITHERS AND FADES."

SUNNYDALE

GODDARD

"SO WE'RE GONNA PICK THIS SPECIAL SNOW FLOWER?"

"YES, IF YOU PICK IT AT THE RIGHT MOMENT, IT WON'T WITHER SO FAST. YOU CAN THEN DRY IT AND CRUSH THE PETALS, AND THE POWDER WORKS AS A VITAMIN. IT ENHANCES YOUR SPELL-CASTING POWER."

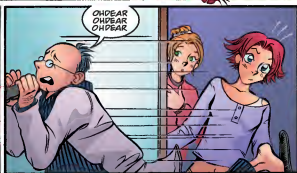
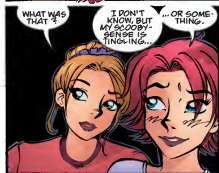
"IT IS A GOOD FLOWER."

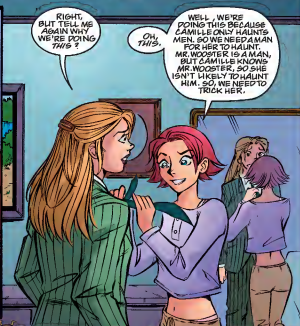
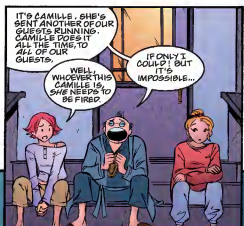
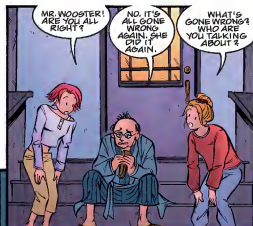
"FINAL THAW IS THIS WEEKEND, WILL."

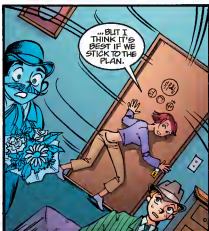
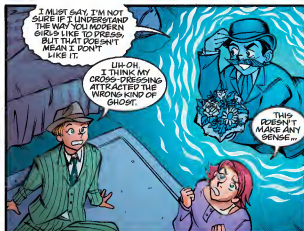
"THERE'S A LITTLE BED AND BREAKFAST OUT NEAR GODDARD."

"IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE WONDERFUL..."

AAAAAAHHHHHH









"OH, BUT YOU SHOULD CARE. ALL MEN ARE DOGS. YOU DON'T THINK, GO AT FIRST. I DIDN'T."

"WE CAME HERE ON OUR TENTH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY, AND I WAS STILL SO IN LOVE."



"BUT THEN THE INGENUE ENTERED AND EVERYTHING CHANGED. I SAW MY DEAR DOG OGDEN'S TRUE NATURE."

"I SWORE I'D HAVE REVENGE, HUMILIATE HIM IN THE VERY SPOT WHERE HE HUMILIATED ME."

"NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TOOK."



"WE DIED TOGETHER ON OUR TRIP HOME. WE WERE ARGUING, NOT WATCHING WHERE WE WERE GOING."

"I CAME BACK HERE, AND I'VE BEEN HUMILIATING HIM EVER SINCE, IN THE HOPES THAT HE'LL FEEL THE BURN OF BETRAYAL THAT I ONCE FELT."



LIES! I NEVER DID ANYTHING WITH THAT GIRL!

AND IF YOU WEREN'T SUCH A NAG, WE WOULDN'T HAVE TUMBLED TO OUR EARLY GRAVES!

OH, PLEASE.

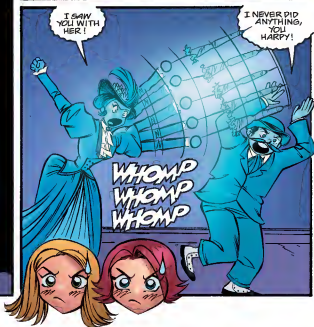
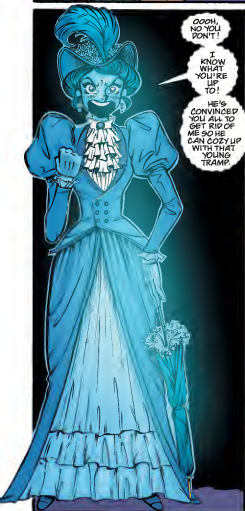
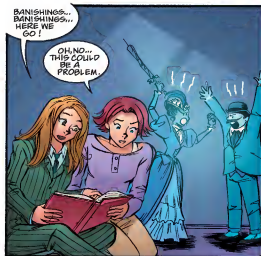


SHUT UP!

NO WONDER MR. WOOSTER CAN'T KEEP ANY GUESTS! YOU TWO ARE LEAVING HERE - AND YOU'RE DOING IT TODAY!



FINE WITH US!



CUT IT OUT!



THIS ISN'T GOING TO WORK, AND FLOWER-PICKING TIME IS ALMOST HERE.

YEAH...THERE'S NO REASONING WITH THEM. WE NEED A NEW PLAN.



"...LIKE MAYBE AN ENTRANCE INSTEAD OF AN EXIT."

ALL RIGHT, NO MORE FIGHTY FIGHT, ONLY NICEY-NICE, AT LEAST UNTIL WE CAN SETTLE THIS.



THE CORE OF YOUR PROBLEM IS THAT NEITHER OF YOU CAN AGREE ON WHAT HAPPENED IN THE GARDEN. BY OUR THINKING, ONLY TWO PEOPLE KNOW WHAT REALLY WENT ON--OGDEN AND THE GIRL, GLORIA.

UH-OH.

AND SINCE OGDEN'S WORD ISN'T SATISFACTORY, WE WERE LEFT WITH ONLY ONE CHOICE...



...SUMMON THE SPIRIT OF GLORIA TO ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS.

OOOOOHH! I REMEMBER THIS PLACE!

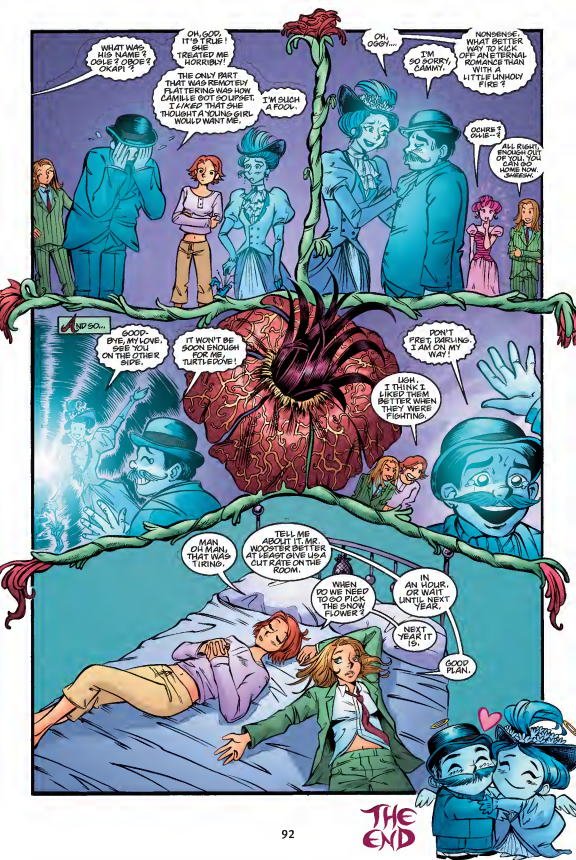
I HAD A LOT OF FUN HERE. I REMEMBER RICHARD DIVER CAME AND HE WAS SOOOOOO CUTE.

BUT THEN RICHARD LEFT AND IT WAS DREADFULLY DULL. I MEAN, HOW MANY TIMES CAN YOU WALK AROUND THE SAME LAKE, YOU KNOW?

THANKFULLY, THIS HILARIOUS, BLOATED OLD GUY CAME HERE. HE HAD A TOTAL SHREW OF A WIFE, AND IT WAS QUITE CLEAR THAT HE WAS SIMPLY STARVED FOR ATTENTION.

I USED TO WIND HIM UP SOOOO BAD.





WHAT WAS HIS NAME?
OOLE? OOLE?
OKAPI?

OH, GOD,
IT'S TRUE!
SHE
TREATED ME
HORRIBLY!

THE ONLY PART
THAT WAS REMOTE
FLATTERING WAS HOW
CAMILLE GOT SO UPSET.
I LIKED THAT SHE
THOUGHT A YOUNG GIRL
WOULD WANT ME.

I'M SUCH
A FOOL.

OH,
OGGY...

I'M
SO SORRY,
CAMILLE.

NONSENSE.
WHAT BETTER
WAY TO KICK
OFF AN ETERNAL
ROMANCE THAN
WITH A
LITTLE LUNOLY
FIRE?

OCHRE?
O-MIE--?

ALL RIGHT,
ENOUGH OF
YOU. YOU
CAN GO
HOME NOW,
SARASH.

AND SO...

GOOD-
BYE, MY LOVE.
SEE YOU
ON THE OTHER
SIDE.

IT WON'T BE
SOON ENOUGH
FOR ME,
TURKEDOVE!

DON'T
FRET, DARLING.
I AM ON MY
WAY!

UGH.
I THINK I
LIKED THEM
BETTER WHEN
THEY WERE
FIGHTING.

MAN
OR MAN,
THAT WAS
TIRING.

TELL ME
ABOUT IT, MR.
WOOSTER. BETTER
AT LEAST GIVE US A
CUT RATE ON THE
ROOM.

WHEN
DO WE NEED
TO GO PICK
THE SNOW
FLOWER?

IN
AN HOUR,
OR WAIT
UNTIL NEXT
YEAR.

NEXT
YEAR IT
IS.

GOOD
PLAN.

THE
END

FAST LIVES





SWAKK

BIG MISTAKE, TRYNNNA TAKE US ALL OUT AT ONCE.

UHHGGHH!

NAH, THAT WEREN'T 'IS MISTAKE. MISTAKE WAS NOT COMIN' AFTER US 'ISSSELF TOO BUSY HERE IN HOLLYWOOD. DINNA WANT T'GET 'IS HANDS DIRTY ON US.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

BUT I'M GETTING REALLY SICK OF HAVING THIS CONVERSATION WITH DEMONS I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

THAT GIRL YOU SENT AFTER US WAS GOOD, ANGEL. SHE KILLED MY MATE, BUT SHE COULDN'T CATCH ME. YOU HIRED HER, SO YOU DIE FIRST. HER I'LL SAVE FOR LATER.



WHY
ISN'T ANYBODY
LISTENING?

THE ONLY
GIRL WORKING
FOR ME CAN BARELY
MAKE A DECENT CUP OF
COFFEE. SHE ISN'T OUT
HUNTING
DEMONS.

KRATCH!



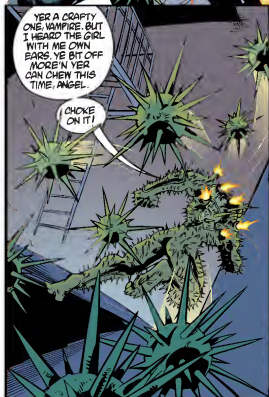
GET THE
POINT?

SPLURCH!



NOW--
LET'S HAVE
A LITTLE
TALK.

TELL ME
ABOUT THIS
GIRL.



YER A CRAFTY
ONE, VAMPIRE. BUT
I HEARD THE GIRL
WITH ME OWN
BARS. YE BIT OFF
MORE'N YER
CAN CHWEN THIS
TIME, ANGEL.

CHOKE
ON IT!



WHAT THE
HELL'S GOING
ON AROUND
HERE?

OW!

Y'KNOW--
OW!--WHEN
I AGREED TO FIGHT
THE FORCES OF
DARKNESS, I
MEANT ONE AT
A TIME.

OH STOP
BEING SUCH
A BABY.

I MUST
SAY, ANGEL,
I FIND
ALL OF THIS QUITE
ALARMING.

IN THE
PAST WEEK ALONE
YOU'VE BEEN ATTACKED
ON FOUR SEPARATE
OCCASIONS, BY A
VARIETY OF DEMONS.
THAT ALONE WOULD
BE ODD...

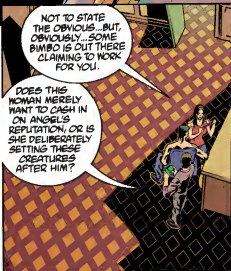


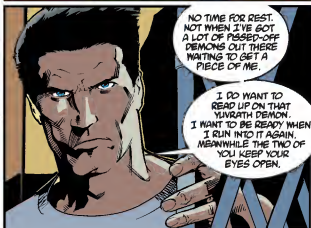
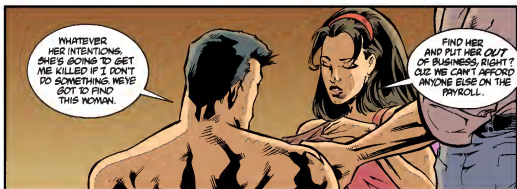
UNDOUBTEDLY THEY
SHARE A GREAT
ENMITY TOWARD YOU.
OTHERWISE YOU
WOULD NEVER FIND
A CRUSTAX DEMON
AND A YUVRATH
WITHIN A MILE
OF EACH OTHER.

YEAH. MY
FAN CLUB.
I GET ALL
KINDS.

NOT TO STATE
THE OBVIOUS...BUT,
OBVIOUSLY...SOME
BIMBO IS OUT THERE
CLAIMING TO WORK
FOR YOU.

DOES THIS
WOMAN MERELY
WANT TO CASH IN
ON ANGEL'S
REPUTATION, OR IS
SHE DELIBERATELY
SETTING THESE
CREATURES AFTER HIM?







LONDON, ENGLAND.

"YOUR EXPERIMENT SEEMS TO BE FAILING, MR. TRAVERS. MISS LANDRY HAS TALLIED AN IMPRESSIVE NUMBER OF KILLS OF LATE, BUT FAR TOO MANY HAVE ESCAPED."

"I WOULDN'T CALL THAT FAILURE. ALEXA LANDRY MAY HAVE BEEN GIVEN ACCESS TO A UNIQUE ARSENAL OF TOOLS FOR THE JOB."

"...BUT SHE IS NEVERTHELESS MERELY A PARTICULARLY TALENTED COUNCIL OPERATIVE. SHE IS NOT A SLAYER."

WE'RE WELL AWARE OF THAT, MR. TRAVERS. PAINFULLY SO. MISS LANDRY WAS AN EXEMPLARY OPERATIVE BEFORE THIS... EXPERIMENT BEGAN.

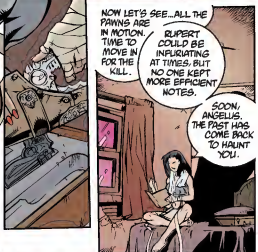
YES, BUT HER WORK OF LATE HAS BEEN SLOPPY. IN THE EYES OF THE INTERNATIONAL SORCERY COMMUNITY, WE CANNOT AFFORD ANOTHER EMBARRASSMENT.

MY FRIENDS, I AM A MEMBER OF THIS BOARD, A COUNCIL DIRECTOR. AS WERE MY FATHER AND GRANDFATHER BEFORE ME. NO ONE CARES MORE ABOUT THE WELL-BEING OF THIS ORGANIZATION.

I WILL SPEAK TO MISS LANDRY IMMEDIATELY. IF IT SEEMS THE ONLY LOGICAL RECOURSE, I WILL RECALL HER TO LONDON AND RETURN HER TO HER FORMER DUTIES.

SEE THAT YOU DO, QUENTIN. SEE THAT YOU DO.





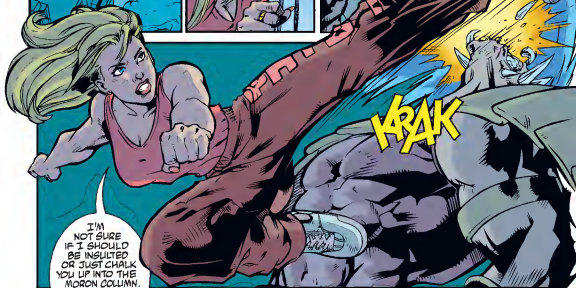
ANOTHER WORLD...

SUNNYDALE, CALIFORNIA IS ABOUT A TWO HOUR DRIVE FROM L.A., BUT IT SEEMS LIKE A WHOLE DIFFERENT WORLD.

SEEMS, BEING THE OPERATIVE WORD. QUIANT AS THIS LITTLE TOWN IS, JUST LIKE L.A., IT HAS FAR MORE THAN ITS FAIR SHARE OF MONSTERS.

SO--SOME DEMON HUNTER WAS AFTER YOU, AND YOU ACTUALLY RAN TO SUNNYDALE, FIGURING YOU'D BE SAFER HERE?

THE HELLMOUTH IS HERE. IT DRAWS MY KIND. MANY DEMONS HAVE COME HERE. THIS HUNTER WAS FIERCE AND I NEEDED TO ESCAPE HER.



I'M KINDA THINKING B-- UNHFFF!

GWAK

ABOUT
TIME YOU SHOWED
UP. ARE YOU LISTEN-
ING TO THIS
GUY?

INDEED,
BUFFY. PERHAPS YOU
OUGHT TO FOCUS ON
DEFEATING HIM. THIS IS A
MAHKASH SWORD. THE ONLY
THING THAT CAN
KILL HIM

DON'T
LEAVE
HOME WITHOUT
ONE. THANKS,
GILES!

COME
SLAYER. YOUR
BLOOD WILL
FEED MY
BLADE.

YOU SHOULDN'T
HAVE TOLD ME
ABOUT THAT
OTHER GIRL,
SPANKY. YOU'VE
GOT ME ALL
JEALOUS.

SOME BIMBO
CALLING HERSELF A
DEMON HUNTER HAS
EARNED ENOUGH OF
A REP THAT SHE'S
GOT THEM RUNNING
HERE?

PERHAPS
WE CAN POKE
AROUND A BIT. IF
THERE'S ANOTHER
PLAYER IN THIS GAME,
WE WANT TO BE
SURE SHE'S ON
OUR SIDE.





LET ME
GUESS.
THERE
WAS THIS
WOMAN...



FOR THE
LAST TIME...
OH,
NEVER MIND. JUST
HOLD THAT POSE
WHILE I FIND
SOMETHING ELSE
SHARP.



YOU DONE WHAT
GIRL COULD NOT. YOU
HURT ME! SLEPT FOR
EIGHTY-SEVEN YEARS.
WHY YOU SENT HER TO
DISTURB ME?

I GO HEAL
NOW. BUT I BE
BACK. YOU
PAY FOR
WAKING
ME UP.

ANGEL?

WASN'T THAT
A TURTHOG?
THE COUNCIL
WASN'T EVEN
CERTAIN
THERE WERE
ANY MORE.

AND AREN'T WE
HAPPY TO HAVE
FOUND ONE? YOU
CAN EXAMINE ITS
CORPSE AS SOON
AS I GET SOME
ANSWERS
FROM IT.

TIME TO
FIND OUT
WHAT'S
REALLY
GOING ON
AROUND
HERE.

THERE
ARE RESEARCH
FACILITIES
THAT WOULD PAY
A KING'S
RANSOM
FOR SUCH A
SPECIMEN.

WESLEY
ANGEL'S RISK-
ING HIS LIFE
AND YOU'RE
WORRIED ABOUT
--HOW MUCH
IS A KING'S
RANSOM, EXACTLY?
IN AMERICAN
DOLLARS.

**RRAAGGHH!
GRARR!**

THIS
AGNER'S
PLACE, CREEPY
GUY. MY SPECIAL
PLACE. NO MORE
MONSTERS!

BA-THUDD



ABNER!
YOU ALL
RIGHT?

'NOTHER
MONSTER IN
THE TUNNEL.
ANGEL. BAD
NEWS.

TRIED
TO STOP 'IM.
NOW ABNER'S
HEAD
HURTS.



STAY HERE. I'LL
BE BACK TO CHECK
ON YOU IN A BIT,
OKAY?

SURE
THING, ANGEL.
YOU ABNER'S
FRIEND.



GET
THAT NASTY
MONSTER, ANGEL.
YOU BE
CAREFUL,
TOO.

YOU
ABNER'S
FRIEND.

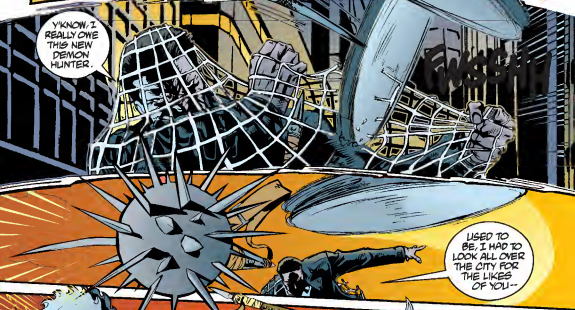








Y'KNOW, I
REALLY OWE
THIS NEW
DEMON
HUNTER.



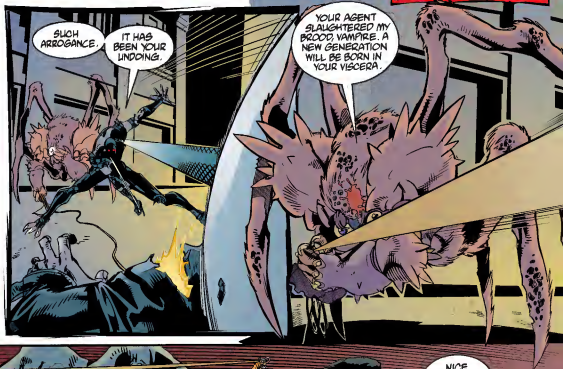
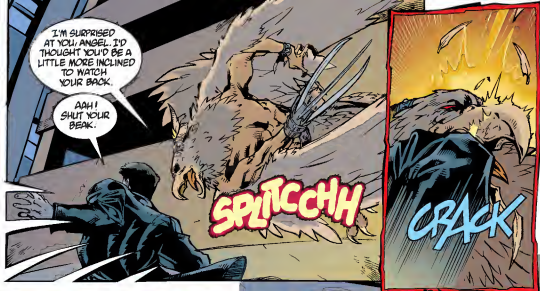
USED TO
BE, I HAD TO
LOOK ALL OVER
THE CITY FOR
THE LIKES
OF YOU--



--THANKS
TO HER, I DON'T
EVEN HAVE TO
LEAVE--

YAAGH!

CHUNK



SPITECH



DON'T
THINK YOU CAN
ESCAPE US,
ANGEL.

WOULDN'T
DREAM OF
IT, BOYS.

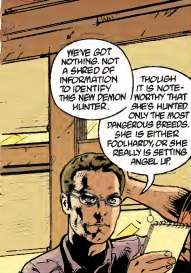


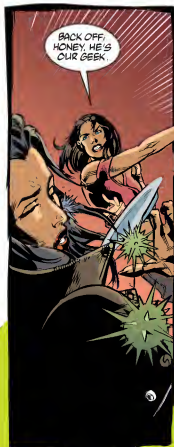
WE'LL
MEET
AGAIN.



AND NEXT
TIME, IT WON'T
BE *ME* GETTING
AMBUSHED.







BACK OFF,
HONEY, HE'S
OUR GEEK.



CORDELIA
CHASE, I
PRESUME?
RUPERT WAS
RIGHT?



YOU'RE
NOT JUST
ANOTHER
PRETTY
FACE.



...UNGGH...
ALEXA, WHAT...
WHY ARE YOU
DOING THIS?
YOU WORK
FOR THE
COUNCIL.

NOT
ANYMORE.





GONNA
HAVE TO FIX
THAT DOOR
AGAIN.



CORDELIA!
WESLEY!

YOU'RE
PROBABLY GOING
TO WANT TO LAY LOW
FOR A WHILE.



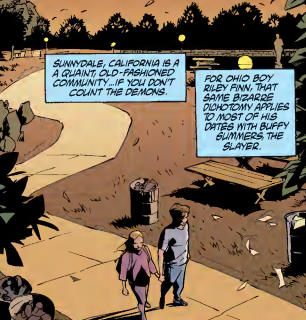
GO HOME.
I'LL CALL YOU
WHEN THIS IS
ALL OVER.



WHEN
IT'S...



...SAFE?



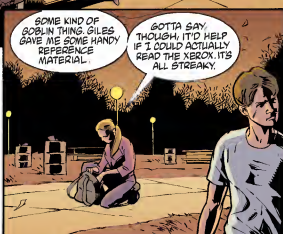
SUNNYDALE, CALIFORNIA IS A
A QUAINY, OLD-FASHIONED
COMMUNITY...IF YOU DON'T
COUNT THE DEMONS.

FOR OHIO BOY
RILEY FINN, THAT
SAME BIZARRE
DICHOTOMY APPLIES
TO MOST OF HIS
DATES WITH BUFFY
SUMMERS, THE
SLAYER.



ROMANTIC,
ISN'T IT? I PITY
THE COUPLES WHO
DON'T GET TO COMBAT
THE FORCES OF DARK-
NESS TOGETHER.

YEP, THERE'S A
WHOLE FACET THAT'S
JUST MISSING FROM
MOST RELATIONSHIPS.
SO WHAT'RE
WE HUNTING
AGAIN?



SOME KIND OF
GOBLIN THING. GILES
GAVE ME SOME HANDY
REFERENCE
MATERIAL.

GOTTA SAY,
THOUGH, IT'D HELP
IF I COULD ACTUALLY
READ THE XEROX. IT'S
ALL STREAKY.

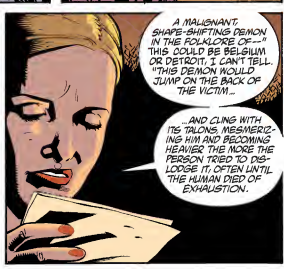


HERE WE GO...
KLUDGE THE
GOBLIN. WHAT KIND
OF NAME IS
KLUDGE?



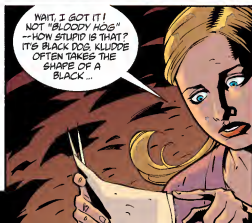
I DON'T
KNOW,
FRENCH?

HEY BOY.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING
OUT HERE IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE
NIGHT?



A MALIGNANT,
SHAPE-SHIFTING DEMON
IN THE FOLKLORE OF--"
THIS COULD BE BELGIUM
OR DETROIT, I CAN'T TELL.
"THIS DEMON WOULD
JUMP ON THE BACK OF
THE VICTIM...

...AND CLING WITH
ITS TALONS, MESMERIZ-
ING HIM AND BECOMING
HEAVIER THE MORE THE
PERSON TRIED TO DIS-
LODGE IT; OFTEN UNTIL
THE HUMAN DIED OF
EXHAUSTION.





IT'S SO
HEAVY...
CAN'T EVEN
MOVE...

HEY, MUTTLEY.
GET THE HELL OFF
MY BOYFRIEND!



THE NOTES,
BUFFY... DID
GILES SAY...
HOW TO...



NOT
THINKING!
BRUTE
FORCE
BAD...



ASSSSSSSSSS



...TECHNOLOGY
GOOD!

HEY, KLU-SER.
CHECK IT OUT.
MUSIC TO SOOTHE
THE SAVAGE...
WHATEVER THE
HELL YOU ARE.



OKAY, FEELING LIKE I MISSED SOMETHING. WHAT IS THAT?

BONGG BONGG

CHURCH BELLS. GUESS MAGIC DOESN'T KNOW IF IT'S LIVE OR MEMOREX

BONGG

SORRY. WHEN HE JUMPED YOU IT TOOK A SECOND FOR "RATIONAL ME" TO OVERCOME "THE-HELL-WITH-LOGIC JUST-KICK-HIS-BUTT ME."

WHAT WAS IT YOU AND WILLOW USED TO SAY? LOVE MAKES YOU DO THE WACKY.



SPEAKING OF WACKY, LOOK AT THIS GUY. BIG, TOUGH, UGLY MONSTER, BUT CHURCH BELLS'LL TURN 'IM INTO A LAWN ORNAMENT.

NOT FOR MY LAWN, ANYWAY. I GUESS THEY JUST DON'T MAKE 'EM LIKE THEY USED TO.



STUPID AND FRAGILE WORKS FOR ME

KRAKAKK



NO, SERIOUSLY, BUFF, HELP ME OUT.

WE KNOW HELLMOUTH IS TO DEMONS WHAT A DONUT SHOP IS TO COPS, RIGHT? BUT HELLO? BLAYER IN TOWN. YOU'VE BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH FOR THEM TO HAVE FIGURED IT OUT.

THAT SEXY HELLMOUTH GLOW? PRETTY MUCH THE DEADLY LURE OF THE BACKYARD BUG ZAPPER AS LONG AS YOU'RE AROUND. SO WHY DO THEY KEEP COMING?

WHAT CAN I SAY, XAND? MONSTERS JUST NOT THAT BRIGHT.

ACTUALLY, SOME OF THEM ARE EXTREMELY INTELLIGENT. JUST, Y'KNOW, TOO FULL OF THEIR OWN DEMON-Y SELVES TO BE AFRAID.

FOR SOME, IT COULD BE THAT THE PULL OF THE HELLMOUTH IS SIMPLY STRONGER THAN THEIR FEAR. OTHERS... I JUST DON'T UNDER-
STAND.

TELL ME ABOUT IT. I TOLD YOU GUYS ABOUT THE BONE-HEAD WITH THE SWORD THE OTHER DAY.

ON THE RUN FROM SOME DEMON HUNTER, SO HE COMES HERE? WE CAN SAFELY ASSUME NOT ON THE HONOR ROLL AT THE GHOUL SCHOOL.



"NO ONE
KNOWS."

UCLA
MEDICAL
CENTER

HER
NAME'S
ALEXA?

PARDON
ME?

I HEARD YOU
ON THE PHONE WITH
GILES. THIS PSYCHO-
WITCH WHO JUMPED
US? HOW WELL DO
YOU KNOW HER,
WESLEY?

NOT NEARLY
AS WELL AS GILES
DOES. LAST I SAW HER,
ALEXA LANDRY WAS A
FIELD OPERATIVE FOR
THE 'WATCHERS'
COUNCIL.

BUT I
CANNOT IMAGINE
THAT HER ACTIONS
HERE ARE
ON THEIR
BEHALF.



RIGHT. 'CAUSE THOSE OLD COUNCIL BOYS ARE JUST SO WARM AND CUDDLY.

NOT THAT IT MATTERS WHO SENT HER. SOMEHOW I DOUBT TRAMPY THE WARRIOR PRINCESS JUST PICKED US FOR A RANDOM BUTT-KICKING.

QUITE RIGHT. I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT PRECISELY THAT. THESE DEMON'S WHO'VE BEEN ATTACKING ANGEL HAVE CLAIMED THEY WERE HUNTED BY SOME-ONE IN HIS EMPLOY.

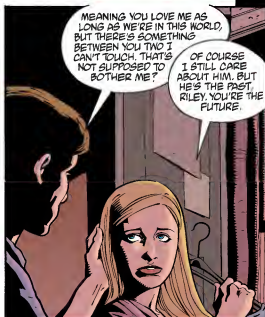
SO, WHAT, YOU THINK THIS WELL-ARMED BIMBO GOT ALL THESE DEMONS PISSSED OFF AT ANGEL ON PURPOSE? WHY?

I WISH I KNEW. MORE IMPORTANTLY, I WISH I KNEW WHERE ANGEL IS.

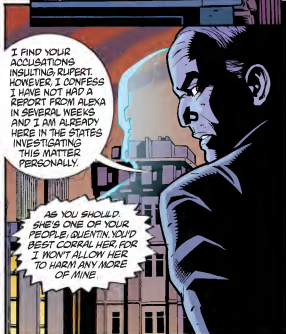
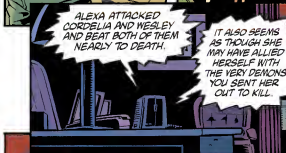
WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM, WESLEY. FILL HIM IN.

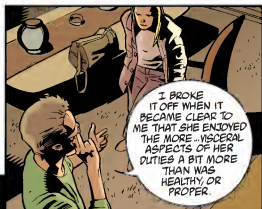
YES, BUT HE'S NOT ANSWERING HIS CELL PHONE. IT MUST'VE BEEN HIM WHO GOT US HERE. WE MAY HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL HE COMES BACK FOR US...

...I DON'T LIKE THIS. NOT ANY OF IT. BUT HELP IS ON THE WAY.











STEEL YOURSELVES, GENTLEMEN. WORD HAS IT THIS LEECH IS A NASTY BLOKE.

SPREAD OUT. GIVE A YELL IF THERE'S ANY SIGN OF THE MONSTER.

NOT TO WORRY, HERR STEWART AND I HAVE FINISHED OFF MORE OF THESE FIENDS THAN I CAN COUNT.

INDEED LADS. AND ONE DAY, GOD WILLING, WE'LL HAVE RID THE WORLD OF ALL OF THE BLOODY BEASTS.

"FOR THE MOMENT, THOUGH..."

"...LET'S CONCENTRATE ON THIS ANGELUS, SHALL WE?"

YOU'VE EARNED YOURSELF QUITE A REPUTATION, ANGELUS...



...BUT YOU'VE YET TO
RUN INTO THE LIKES OF
SIR ANDREW LANDRY.





I HEAR YOU
RUSTLING IN THE
SHADOWS, VAMPIRE.
AND RIGHT YOU
SHOULD. YOUR PATH
OF EVIL HAS
COME TO...



...AN
END?



PLEASE...
SIR ANDREW...
END THIS...



NO...
OH NO...



GOOD
GOD



ALL YEH'VE
SEEN AND YE
STILL BELIEVE
IN THAT?



NO WONDER
YOU'RE ARROGANT
ENOUGH TO COME
IN HERE AFTER
ME ALONE.



YOU UNDER-
ESTIMATE ME,
VAMPIRE.

I'M NOT
ALONE.



KRAK



YEEAHHH



IT'S DAMN
AMUSING,
ACTUALLY.

I'VE HAD
A LOT OF
"FEARLESS
VAMPIRE
KILLERS"
COME AFTER
ME, BUT I'VE
NEVER MET
ONE WITH
YOUR EGO.



THEY WERE GOOD MEN
YOU KILLED, AND YOU'LL BLOODY
WELL PAY FOR THEIR LIVES IF I
MUST HUNT YOU TO THE ENDS
OF THE EARTH.



I'LL
SEE YOU
THERE

ONE HUNDRED
SIXTY YEARS
AND HALF A
WORLD AWAY...

UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES
MEDICAL CENTER

RUMBLLL

AAH. NOT
AGAIN.



YOU
KEEP RUNNING,
VAMPIRE. BUT
WE'RE NEVER
FAR
BEHIND.

NO MORE
RUNNING



AGREED.



YOU DARED SEND
YOUR AGENT TO SPILL
MY BLOOD, VAMPIRE. I'M
INSULTED YOU DIDN'T
COME YOURSELF. WE
COULD HAVE ENDED
THIS THEN.

I'VE SAID
IT BEFORE.



SHE
DOESN'T
WORK FOR
ME.



BUT I'M SURE
I WOULD'VE
GOTTEN
ROUND TO YOU
EVENTUALLY.



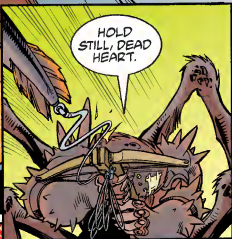
SKREEE



WAAARRR



LET'S
SEE HOW
YOU DO
WITHOUT
THESE.



HOLD
STILL, DEAD
HEART.

DON'T
MIND
IF I
DON'T.



KIANG

LET'S GET
THIS OVER WITH.
I'VE GOT FRIENDS
UPSTAIRS WHO
NEED ME.

YOU'RE
IN THE WAY, AND IT'S
REALLY STARTING TO PISS
ME OFF.





WE'LL
BE BACK
FOR YOU
VAMPIRE.



WAS
IT SOME-
THING I
SAID?



WHUD

UHNFFF!



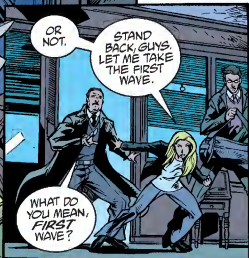
NO. IT
WAS SOME-
THING YOU
DID.





OKAY,
WHO BROUGHT
THE DIP?

SCREW
THE DIP, SHOW
ME TO THE
KEG.



OR
NOT.

STAND
BACK, GUYS.
LET ME TAKE
THE FIRST
WAVE.

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
FIRST
WAVE?



THERE'S
ALWAYS
A SECOND
WAVE.



HER NAME IS ALEXA
LANDRY. THE COUNCIL
OF WATCHERS MADE
HER INTO THEIR
ULTIMATE OPERATIVE.

THEY GAVE HER
ACCESS TO EVERY
MAGICAL WEAPON
IN THEIR ARSENAL,
EVERY SECRET
SPELL IN THEIR
POSSESSION.

IT WAS THE CHANCE
FOR WHICH SHE HAD
WAITED HER WHOLE LIFE.

UNGH!!!

YOU DON'T KNOW
HOW I'VE DREAMED
OF THIS MOMENT,
ANGELUS. YOU AT
MY MERCY.

I'M NOT
QUITE AT YOUR
MERCY.

THE CHANCE
FOR VENGEANCE



YOU WILL BE. ONE CUT FROM THE IZMIR DAGGER AND THE UNDEAD ARE PARALYZED. THE DEMON SOUL IS TRAPPED WITHIN, ITS CONTROL OF THE HOST BODY IS SEVERED--

-- BUT YOU'LL STILL FEEL THE PAIN I WILL INFLICT--THE ETERNAL SUFFERING.



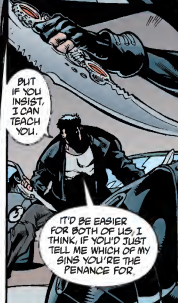
STORY OF MY LIFE.



I KNOW THE STORY OF YOUR LIFE, MONSTER. EVERY CRUELTY YOU INFLICTED, EVERY DROP OF BLOOD YOU HAVE SPILLED. THE PAIN...



YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT PAIN.



BUT IF YOU INSIST, I CAN TEACH YOU.

IT'D BE EASIER FOR BOTH OF US, I THINK, IF YOU'D JUST TELL ME WHICH OF MY SINS YOU'RE THE PENANCE FOR.



ALL IN GOOD TIME AFTER YOU HAVE SCREAMED AND BEGGED FOR ME TO TELL YOU WHY.

JUST AS HE DID

zzzzzz

SO YOU'RE THE PAST COMING BACK TO HAUNT ME? I'M SUPPOSED TO BE TORMENTED BY THAT?



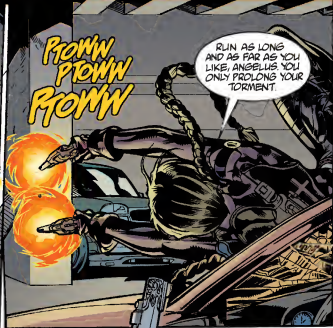
UNNGH!



LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING...

...THAT'S EVERY MINUTE OF EVERY DAY.

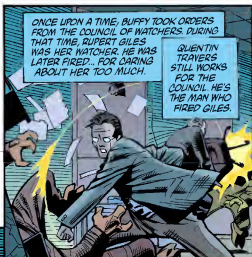
SO IN THE BIG PICTURE, YOU'RE NOTHING SPECIAL.





HER NAME IS BUFFY SUMMERS. SHE IS THE SLAYER, THE ONE GIRL IN ALL THE WORLD CHOSEN TO COMBAT THE FORCES OF DARKNESS.

SHE DOES IT VERY WELL.



ONCE UPON A TIME, BUFFY TOOK ORDERS FROM THE COUNCIL OF WATCHERS. DURING THAT TIME, RUPERT GILES WAS HER WATCHER. HE WAS LATER FIRED... FOR CARING ABOUT HER TOO MUCH.

QUENTIN TRAVERS STILL WORKS FOR THE COUNCIL. HE'S THE MAN WHO FIRED GILES.



BUFFY HAS NEVER FORGIVEN HIM, OR THE COUNCIL ITSELF.



ALL RIGHT, TRAVERS, I'D SAY IT'S TIME FOR TRUTH...

...OR CONSEQUENCES.





...WELL, HE'S A VAMPIRE, ISN'T HE?





"SHE WAS ONE OF THE FINEST OPERATIVES THE COUNCIL EVER HAD. NATURALLY, WHEN SHE PROPOSED THAT SHE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO MORE..."

WITH RECENT DISAPPOINTMENTS MR. TRAVERS, THE COUNCIL'S IMAGE HAS BEEN TARNISHED. I PROPOSE A NEW KIND OF OPERATIVE. ONE WITHOUT THE USUAL CONSTRAINTS.



AN INTRIGUING PROPOSITION, MISS LANDRY. THE COUNCIL HAS, OF COURSE, CONSIDERED SUCH AN EXPERIMENT IN THE PAST. IT WAS DEEMED FAR TOO RISKY.



AND YET, YOUR RECORD IS EXEMPLARY, AND YOUR FAMILY HISTORY MAKES YOU AN UNIMPEACHABLE CANDIDATE.

YOU KNOW, THIS JUST MIGHT WORK.



click

IT'S...IT'S
EXTRA-
ORDINARY.



IT IS
EVERYTHING
YOU REQUIRE FOR
YOUR MISSION
TO SUCCEED.

OH, YES.
SIR, THIS
SHOULD
DO QUITE
NICELY.



IZMIR DAGGERS.
QUITE EFFECTIVE
AGAINST VAMPIRES.
YOU'RE FAMILIAR
WITH THEM?

OF COURSE
I'VE DONE MY
HOMEWORK.





I'M STILL NOT EXACTLY SURE WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE. BUFFY SEEMED PRETTY RUSHED WHEN SHE CALLED LAST NIGHT...



THE POINT IS, SHE NEEDS US.



APPARENTLY THIS DEMON HUNTER? BIG VENDETTA AGAINST ANGEL FOR SOME REASON.

AND LET'S NOT FORGET, GILES' OLD FLAME.



GILES, JUST NOT HAVING THE LUCK WITH THE FILLIES.

I WASN'T AWARE GILES WAS INTERESTED IN HORSES.



OH YEAH GILES AND HORSES. GUY KEEPS GETTING TRAMPLED

SO WHY THE BAT-SIGNAL, WILL? MUST BE SOMETHING SERIOUS FOR BUFFY TO CALL IN THE TROOPS—WHICH WOULD BE US.



TARA AND I HAVE SOME WITCHY MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE OR OTHER, 'CAUSE, YOU KNOW, OF THE MAGIC.

AND, XAND, SHE WANTS YOU AND ANYA TO LOOK OUT FOR WESLEY AND CORDELIA. ITS PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT THIS WOMAN HAS MADE THEM TARGETS TOO.



AND... RILEY? I DIDN'T HEAR RILEY IN THERE.



RIGHT, WHICH WOULD BE BECAUSE BUFFY NEEDS SOMEONE TO HOLD DOWN THE FORT HERE, AND YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE SHE TRUSTS TO DO THAT. HOLD IT, THE FORT, I MEAN.



THAT'S RIDICULOUS. I COULD HOLD THE FORT. WE'VE HELD THE FORT BEFORE. I'M GOOD WITH THE FORT.

XANDER, DON'T BE OBTUSE. BUFFY DOESN'T WANT RILEY TO COME TO LOS ANGELES BECAUSE SHE USED TO HAVE SEX WITH ANGEL, AND SHE HAS SEX WITH RILEY NOW.



GREAT. THANKS FOR CLEARING THAT UP, ANYA. REALLY.



NOW,
MY LITTLE
FRIEND..

TELL ME IS
HE THERE?



I THOUGHT
SO. I KNEW HE
COULD NOT RESIST
RETURNING TO
HIS INJURED
FRIENDS.

FRIENDS
AS IF ANYTHING
HE COULD DO NOW
THAT HIS SOUL HAS
BEEN RETURNED
COULD MAKE UP
FOR HIS PAST
INQUITIES.

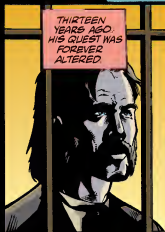


THE
LANDRY
ESTATE,
SHEFFIELD,
GREAT
BRITAIN

1854.

THE FIRST TIME
ANDREW LANDRY SAW
A VAMPIRE HE WAS
FOURTEEN-YEARS-OLD.
HE HAS BEEN HUNTING
THEM EVER SINCE.

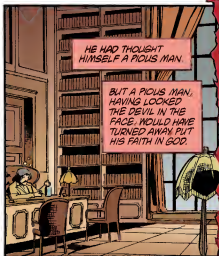
THIRTEEN
YEARS AGO,
HIS QUEST WAS
FOREVER
ALTERED.



ANDREW LANDRY
HAD THOUGHT HIM-
SELF A HERO, THEN.



BUT A HERO
WOULD HAVE
SAVED THEM.



HE HAD THOUGHT
HIMSELF A PIOUS MAN.

BUT A PIOUS MAN,
HAVING LOOKED
THE DEVIL IN THE
FACE, WOULD HAVE
TURNED AWAY PUT
HIS FAITH IN GOD.



1845.

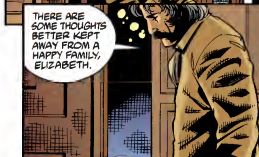
HE HAD
THOUGHT
HIMSELF A
WISE MAN.



BUT A WISE MAN
WOULD HAVE
ABANDONED SO
FOOLISH A QUEST,
WOULD NEVER HAVE
CONTINUED TO LEAD
GOOD MEN TO THEIR
DEATHS AT THE HANDS
OF A FIEND FROM
THE INFERNO ITSELF.

**KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK**

ENTER.



THERE ARE
SOME THOUGHTS
BETTER KEPT
AWAY FROM A
HAPPY FAMILY,
ELIZABETH.



SIR ANDREW? MRS.
LANDRY WOULD LIKE TO
KNOW IF YOU WISH TO
SEE YOUNG ALEX
BEFORE HE
GOES DOWN
FOR THE NIGHT.

TO BE HONEST,
SIR, I THINK SHE
MAY ALSO HAVE
BEEN A BIT CONCERNED
FOR YOU, YOU HAVE
BEEN LOCKED AWAY
IN THERE
FOR HOURS.



NOW RUN
ALONG, DEAR.
YOU HAD
PLANNED TO
MEET YOUR
YOUNG MAN
TONIGHT, I
BELIEVE.

THANK
YOU, SIR.

BUT HE'S
ALREADY
ARRIVED.



MARGARET?
WHY IS IT DARK? IS
THE LITTLE ONE ALREADY
ASLEEP?



LOVELY PLACE
YOU'VE GOT HERE,
SIR ANDREW. AN
ADORABLE
FAMILY...



...AND THE
MOST GULLIBLE
SERVANTS.

YOUNG
ELIZABETH
THOUGHT I LOVED HER.
CAN YOU
IMAGINE?



MARGARET,
NO!



YOUR MUM
AND DA ARE
HAVING A WEE
SPAT, LITTLE
ALEX. NOTHING
TO BE
TROUBLED
ABOUT.



ANGELUS!
BY ALL THAT IS
SACRED--





HEY, VISITING HOURS OVER YET, OR CAN I COME IN?

ANGEL! THANK THE LORD. WHEN WE HADN'T HEARD FROM YOU, WE THOUGHT THE WORST.

OR, AT LEAST, WE THOUGHT SIGOURNEY WEAVER HAD CAUGHT UP WITH YOU.



WHICH, GIVEN HOW CRAPPY YOU LOOK, WAS APPARENTLY NOT TOO FAR FROM THE TRUTH.



THANKS FOR THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, CORDELIA. AND I'M FINE, BY THE WAY. RELIEVED TO SEE THAT YOU TWO ARE IN ONE PIECE, MORE OR LESS.

NOW WE'VE JUST GOT TO FIGURE OUT WHO WE'RE DEALING WITH HERE.

ACTUALLY, ANGEL, WE ALREADY KNOW. SHE'S A COUNCIL OPERATIVE. THOUGH I'VE NO IDEA WHY SHE SEEMS TO HAVE FOCUSED HER ENERGIES ON YOU. HER NAME IS ALEXA LANDRY.



SHE'S A LANDRY?

NO WONDER SHE WANTS TO KILL ME.

KASHH

ANGELUS!





IT'S ANGEL.

YOUR NAME WILL ALWAYS BE ANGELLUS. YOU CANNOT ERASE THE PAST, MONSTER, NO MORE THAN YOU CAN OUTFRUIT IT.



WESLEY, HE'S A MESS. WE HAVE TO HELP HIM!

WE'RE IN NO CONDITION TO HELP ANYONE.

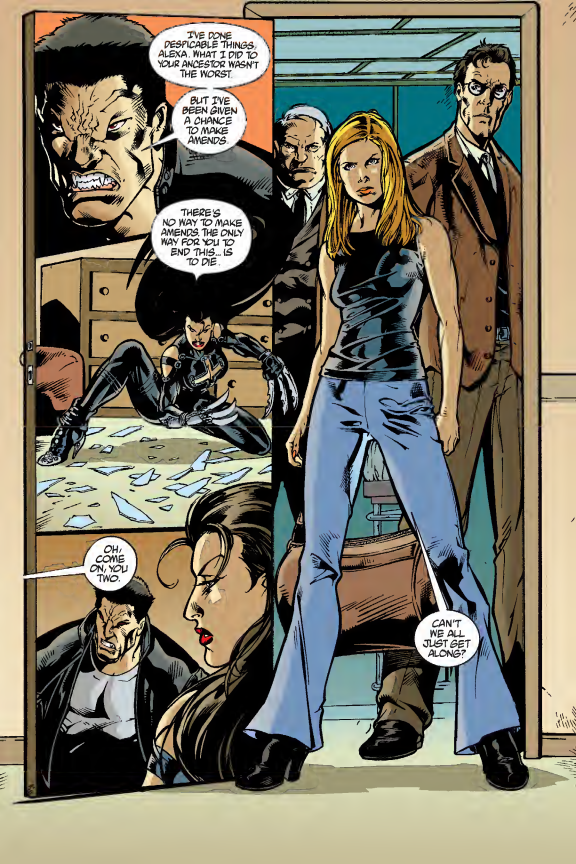


YOU'RE SEEKING REDEMPTION NOW, ANGELLUS. BUT THERE CAN NEVER BE REDEMPTION FOR YOU.

NOT FOR YOU TO DECIDE, ALEXA.



UHNFF



I'VE DONE
DESPICABLE THINGS.
ALEXA, WHAT I DID TO
YOUR ANCESTOR WASN'T
THE WORST.

BUT I'VE
BEEN GIVEN
A CHANCE
TO MAKE
AMENDS.

THERE'S
NO WAY TO MAKE
AMENDS. THE ONLY
WAY FOR YOU TO
END THIS... IS
TO DIE.

OH,
COME
ON, YOU
TWO.

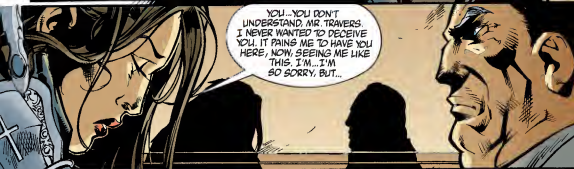
CAN'T
WE ALL
JUST GET
ALONG?



STAND DOWN, MISS LANDRY. IMMEDIATELY. NEVER IN MY CAREER AS A WATCHER HAVE I FELT SO BETRAYED, SO DECEIVED.



YOU WILL RETURN TO LONDON IN MY CUSTODY TO STAND BEFORE A BOARD OF INQUIRY.



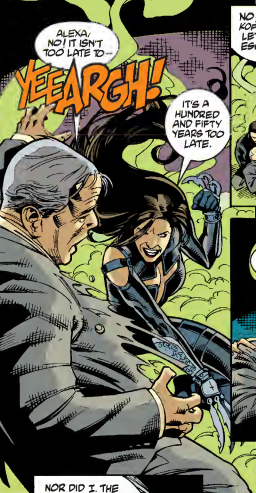
YOU...YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, MR. TRAVERS. I NEVER WANTED TO DECEIVE YOU. IT PAINS ME TO HAVE YOU HERE, NOW. SEEING ME LIKE THIS, I'M...I'M SO SORRY, BUT...



...IT LOOKS AS THOUGH I'M GOING TO HAVE TO KILL YOU, TOO.



SOON.



ALEXA,
NO! IT ISN'T
TOO LATE TO--

YEEARGH!

IT'S A
HUNDRED
AND FIFTY
YEARS TOO
LATE.



NO! KOFF
KOFF! DON'T
LET HER
ESCAPE!

KOFF KOFF! WHAT
IS THIS STUFF?
KOFF KOFF! IT'S
SO THICK... LIKE
IT'S ALIVE...

IT'S A
MAGICAL KOFF!
MIST, A SIMPLE
KOFF!
CONJURING.



FERMIDUS
EXTRICO!!

NOW WHAT?
GILES, YOU
KNOW HER
BEST.

SHE WAS A KOFF!
DIFFERENT WOMAN,
THEN I NEVER SAW
THIS SIDE OF HER.



NOR DID I. THE
GIRL HAS LIVED
HER WHOLE LIFE
AS A MASQUERADE.
SHE KEPT THIS
VENDETTA A SECRET.
TEACHERS, LOVERS,
FRIENDS - NO ONE
EVER SAW HER
TRUE FACE
BEFORE NOW.



AND NOW
THAT WE HAVE,
I FEAR FOR US
ALL. FOR ANYONE
WHO GETS IN
HER WAY...

THE PAST HAS COME BACK TO HAUNT ANGEL, BUFFY, AND GILES IN THE FORM OF ALEXA LANDRY, A WOMAN GIVEN ACCESS TO GREAT MAGICAL POWER BY THE COUNCIL OF WATCHERS, WHO WERE IGNORANT OF HER TRUE PURPOSE.

NOW HER MENTOR, QUENTIN TRAVERS, HAS PAID IN BLOOD FOR THAT IGNORANCE.

MR. TRAVERS MUST HAVE SECURITY AT ALL TIMES. HIS ATTACKER MIGHT RETURN AT ANY MOMENT. I SHALL CONTACT HIS EMPLOYERS. I'M SURE YOU'LL HEAR FROM THEM SOON ENOUGH.



LANDRY'S A NAME I HAVEN'T HEARD IN A LONG TIME, GILES. I KNOW WHY SHE'S AFTER ME. BUT WHAT'S HER CONNECTION TO THE REST OF YOU?

ALEXA HAS BEEN AN OPERATIVE OF THE COUNCIL FOR SOME YEARS, AND A MUCH TRUSTED ONE. TRUSTED TOO MUCH, IT SEEMS.

THEY TRAINED HER TO BE SOMETHING MORE, NEVER REALIZING SHE WAS MANIPULATING THEM ALL. I WARNED THEM YEARS AGO THAT SHE WAS TOO VOLATILE.

THEY ASSUMED IT WAS MERELY THE BITTERNESS OF A JILTED LOVER WHO WOULD HAVE BELIEVED ME IF I HAD TOLD THEM I HAD BEEN THE ONE TO END THINGS?

OKAY, SO WE KNOW SHE'S NOT PRESIDENT OF THE GILES FAN CLUB. BUT WHY YOU, ANGEL? I SAW YOUR FACE WHEN YOU HEARD THIS WHACKO'S NAME. WHAT IS SHE TO YOU?

WHY DOES SHE HATE YOU SO MUCH?



IF THIS GIRL IS REALLY A DESCENDANT OF ANDREW LANDRY, SHE HAS EVERY RIGHT TO HATE ME. SHE WANTS TO KILL ME. I DON'T BLAME HER.



1857. DEVONSHIRE SANITARIUM. IT HAS BEEN ANDREW LANDRY'S HOME FOR THREE YEARS.



HE'S HERE! I TOLD YOU HE'D COME! I WARNED YOU! HE'LL KILL YOU ALL! WHY DOESN'T ANYONE LISTEN? HE'LL KILL YOU ALL... BUT HE WON'T TAKE ME!



DON'T YOU SEE WHAT THIS IS? I'M IN HELL... THIS IS MY HELL... YOU'RE JUST A PART OF IT. HE'S THE DEVIL INCARNATE. HE'S COME TO TORTURE ME AGAIN!

A BIT POMPOUS O' YOU, SIR ANDREW. THINKING YOU'RE IMPORTANT ENOUGH THAT OLD SCRATCH HIMSELF'S GONNA GO TO ALL THAT TROUBLE FOR THE LIKES OF YOU.

YOU'VE GOTTA LISTEN TO DOCTOR SEWARD. ONLY DEVIL AROUND HERE'S BETWEEN YOUR EARS.





NO! DON'T KILL HIM! TAKE ME, DAMN YOUR BLACK HEART! ONCE AND FOR ALL JUST TAKE ME AND LET IT BE DONE!



BUT WE'RE NOT DONE, NOT YET.

SNAPTKK



PLEASE, NO MORE. MERCIFUL GOD, IF THIS FIEND WON'T END MY LIFE, I PRAY YOU, DO IT IN HIS STEAD. LET ME DIE, NOW...OR MY SOUL IS FORFEIT.



OH, I LIKE THAT, SIR ANDREW. HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A CAREER ON THE STAGE?

LOVELY LITTLE SPOT YOU'VE GOT IN HERE. YOUR OWN LITTLE CORNER OF HELL.



WHY? ALL THESE YEARS, ALL THE LIVES YOU'VE TAKEN, DESTROYING ONE SOUL AFTER ANOTHER, MY COLLEAGUES AND ALLIES, MY BEAUTIFUL WIFE...AND YET I LIVE.

WHY?



WHY? YOU MUST BE JOKING. YOU MEAN YOU HAVEN'T FIGURED IT OUT IN ALL THIS TIME?

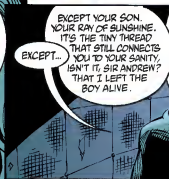
THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU, SIR ANDREW, THE FIRST TIME YOU TRIED TO HUNT ME, YOU ANNOYED ME. NOT MERELY THE INCONVENIENCE, NO. IT WAS YOUR ARROGANCE. YOUR SWAGGER.



BIT OF A ROMPUS TWIT, YOU WERE. REMINDED ME OF MY FATHER. I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE AMUSING TO TEACH YOU A LESSON. TAKE THAT SWAGGER OUT OF YOU.

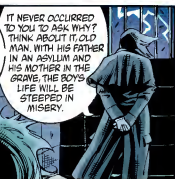


FIFTEEN... FIFTEEN YEARS YOU'VE KILLED ALMOST EVERYONE I CAME INTO CONTACT WITH, EVERYONE I CARED FOR.

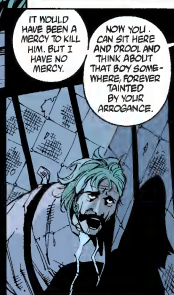


EXCEPT...

EXCEPT YOUR SON. YOUR RAY OF SUNSHINE. IT'S THE TINY THREAD THAT STILL CONNECTS YOU TO YOUR SANITY, ISN'T IT, SIR ANDREW? THAT I LEFT THE BOY ALIVE.



IT NEVER OCCURRED TO YOU TO ASK WHY? THINK ABOUT IT. OLD MAN, WITH HIS FATHER IN AN ASYLUM AND HIS MOTHER IN THE GRAVE, THE BOY'S LIFE WILL BE STEEPED IN MISERY.

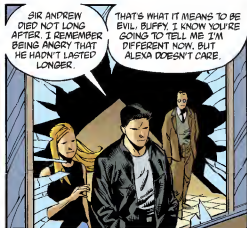


IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A MERCY TO KILL HIM. BUT I HAVE NO MERCY.

NOW YOU CAN SIT HERE AND DROOL AND THINK ABOUT THAT BOY SOMEWHERE, FOREVER TAINTED BY YOUR ARROGANCE.



NOW WE'RE DONE.



TWO
FLOORS
AWAY...

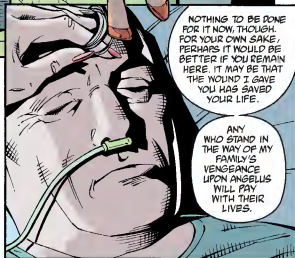


YOU'RE A
FOOLISH MAN,
QUENTIN
TRAVERS.

I WAS
ACTUALLY
RATHER FOND
OF YOU, YOU
KNOW.



BUT YOU ALLIED
YOURSELF WITH THE
DEVIL. WITH YOUR FAMILY
HISTORY, AND THE
COUNCIL'S INFLUENCE,
I THOUGHT YOU, IF
ANYONE, WOULD
UNDERSTAND.

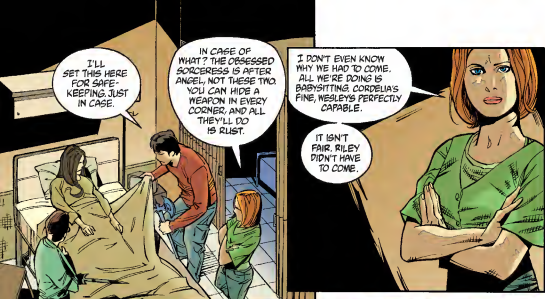


NOTHING TO BE DONE
FOR IT NOW, THOUGH.
FOR YOUR OWN SAKE,
PERHAPS IT WOULD BE
BETTER IF YOU REMAIN
HERE. IT MAY BE THAT
THE WOUND I GAVE
YOU HAS SAVED
YOUR LIFE.

ANY
WHO STAND IN
THE WAY OF MY
FAMILY'S
VENGEANCE
UPON ANGELUS
WILL PAY WITH
THEIR LIVES.



I'M SORRY,
QUENTIN. I
NEVER WANTED
IT TO BE THIS
WAY.



I'LL SET THIS HERE FOR SAFE-KEEPING. JUST IN CASE.

IN CASE OF WHAT? THE OBSESSED SORCERESS IS AFTER ANGEL, NOT THESE TWO. YOU CAN HIDE A WEAPON IN EVERY CORNER, AND ALL THEY'LL DO IS RUST.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY WE HAD TO COME. ALL WE'RE DOING IS BABYSITTING. CORDELA'S FINE, WESLEYS PERFECTLY CAPABLE.

IT ISN'T FAIR. RILEY DIDN'T HAVE TO COME.

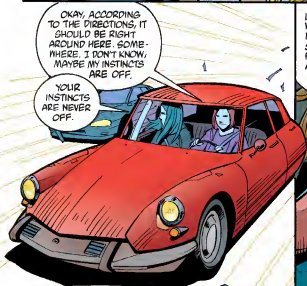


I NOTICED RILEY DIDN'T COME WITH YOU.

HE HAD... STUFF TO DO. HE WANTED TO COME. BUT...



...SO, SEE ANY DEMONS YET?



OKAY, ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTIONS, IT SHOULD BE RIGHT AROUND HERE. SOMEWHERE. I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE MY INSTINCTS ARE OFF.

YOUR INSTINCTS ARE NEVER OFF.



LOOK AT US, TWO WITCHES ON THE PROM ON THE MEAN STREETS OF L.A., FOLLOWIN' DIRECTIONS AND EVERYTHING. WE'RE ALMOST CITY GIRLS.

AND THERE IT IS!



SO, ANGEL, THIS PLAN OF YOURS? TELL ME AGAIN WHY CRUISING AROUND IN SEARCH OF THESE GUYS WAS A GOOD IDEA.

ALEXA WOULD HAVE COME AFTER US EVENTUALLY-- WITH PLENTY OF BACKUP. BETTER TO GET THEM OUT OF THE WAY FIRST...



...NOT TO MENTION THAT IT'S BOUND TO GET HER ATTENTION. SHE CAN'T AMBUSH US IF WE'RE TRYING TO DRAW HER OUT.



RIGHT. I GET IT NOW. YOUR BIG CLEVER PLAN WAS: "LET'S GO KILL SOMETHING."



WORKS FOR ME.



YOU'RE A FOOL, VAMPIRE. NO MATTER WHAT ALLIES YOU ENLIST TO AID YOU, YOU CANNOT DESTROY ME. TONIGHT, AT LAST, YOU WILL PAY FOR YOUR SINS AGAINST MY KIND.



GIMME
THAT.

WHAT?
IMPOSSIBLE!



YOU
DON'T GET
IT, DO
YOU?

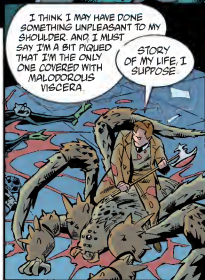
YOU'RE
JUST THE
APPETIZER

WHISSHHH



THUNKK

EEN. GLAD
I DON'T HAVE TO
CLEAN THAT UP.



I THINK I MAY HAVE DONE
SOMETHING UNPLEASANT TO MY
SHOULDER. AND I MUST
SAY I'M A BIT PIQUED
THAT I'M THE ONLY
ONE COVERED WITH
MALODOROUS
VISCERA

STORY
OF MY LIFE, I
SUPPOSE



SO MUCH FOR DRAWING
ALEXA OUT, eh? FRANKLY
THE FACT THAT SHE HASN'T
CAUGHT UP TO US BY NOW
--PARTICULARLY AFTER
THIS BIT OF CARNAGE--
MAKES ME EVEN
MORE NERVOUS.

ON THE OTHER
HAND, IT DOES GIVE
US A BIT MORE TIME
TO PREPARE TO
ENGAGE HER
AGAIN. I ONLY
HOPE WILLOW
AND TARA ARE
SUCCESSFUL IN
THEIR QUEST.



OOH, LOOK, BAGLISK GUT! THIS PLACE HAS EVERYTHING!

IT'S THE WAL-MART OF MAGIC SUPPLY STORES.

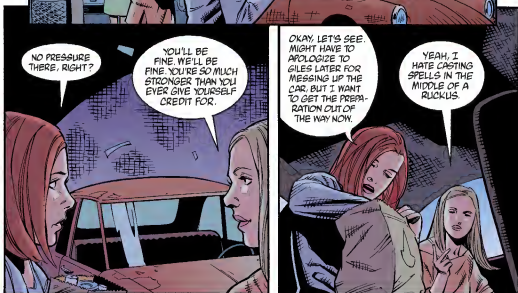
NOT SURE I'M THRILLED WITH THE CLIENTELE, THOUGH.

THIS PLACE IS WHERE THEY MAKE THE WILLIES.

BUT, ON THE NOT-SO-DARK SIDE? IF YOU WANTED TO GET THE WILLIES HERE, BETCHA THEY'D BE ON SALE.

ARE YOU OKAY? YOU SEEM A LITTLE NERVOUS.

NERVOUS? WHY WOULD I BE NERVOUS? BUFFY CALLS US DOWN HERE LIKE THE CAVALRY, RELYING ON US TO MAKE WITH THE MOJO TO HELP SAVE THE LIFE OF HER ONE, TRUE LOVE...

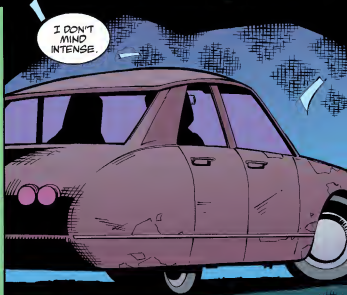
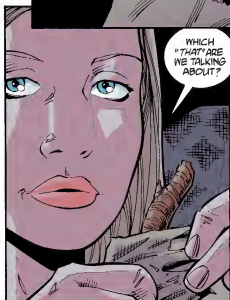
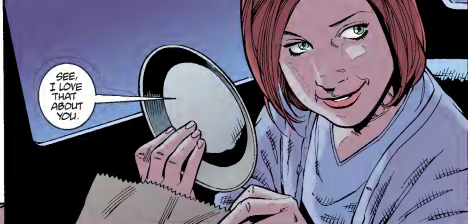


NO PRESSURE THERE, RIGHT?

YOU'LL BE FINE. WE'LL BE FINE. YOU'RE SO MUCH STRONGER THAN YOU EVER GIVE YOURSELF CREDIT FOR.

OKAY, LET'S SEE. MIGHT HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO GILES LATER FOR MESSING UP THE CAR, BUT I WANT TO GET THE PREPARATION OUT OF THE WAY NOW.

YEAH, I HATE CASTING SPELLS IN THE MIDDLE OF A RUCKUS.





WHADDAYA
MEAN WE'RE NOT
DOCTORS? 'COURSE
WE'RE DOCTORS.

RIGHT,
DIMMIT. MAYBE IF
YOU HAD ALL THE
UNSIGHTLY GROWTHS
REMOVED?

I'VE SEEN
SIDESHOW
FREAKS WHO
LOOK MORE LIKE
DOCTORS.

Y'KNOW, I
WATCH NICK AT
NITE, AND NOT EVEN
LUCY AND ETHEL
WOULD BE DUMB
ENOUGH TO TRY
THIS ONE.

OH WELL,
SO MUCH FOR THE
DISGUISE.

DR. HOWARD,
DR. FINE,
DR. HOWARD...

...REPORT TO
SURGERY!



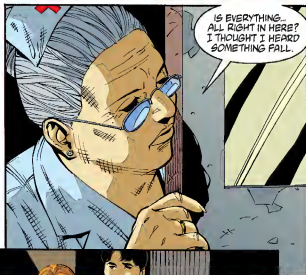
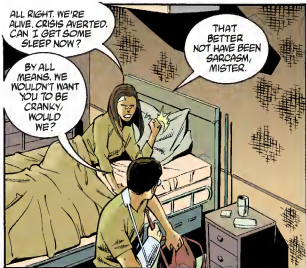


THAT'S RIGHT.
CHALK ONE UP FOR
THE KIDS FROM THE
SUBURBS. THESE CITY
DEMONS WOULDN'T
LAST A SECOND IN
SUNNYDALE

ALL RIGHT. WE'RE
ALIVE. CRISIS AVERTED.
CAN I GET SOME
SLEEP NOW?

BY ALL
MEANS. WE
WOULDN'T WANT
YOU TO BE
CRANKY,
WOULD
WE?

THAT
BETTER
NOT HAVE BEEN
SARCASM,
MISTER.



IS EVERYTHING...
ALL RIGHT IN HERE?
I THOUGHT I HEARD
SOMETHING FALL.

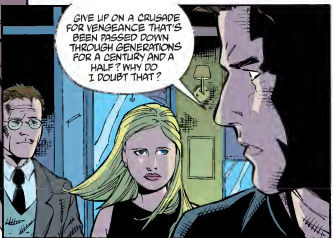


PEACHY,
THANKS. THEY
WERE JUST
LEAVING.



YOU KNOW HER BEST, GILES. DO YOU THINK HURTING TRAVERS SCARED HER? WHERE WOULD SHE HAVE GONE?

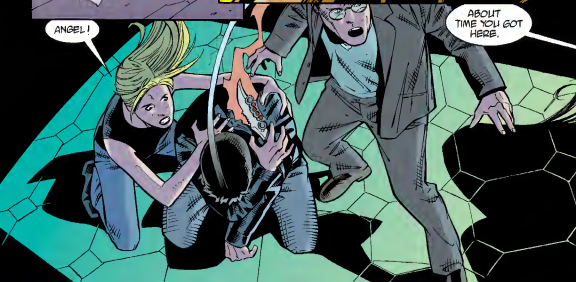
I HONESTLY CAN'T SAY, CRUDE AS IT WAS, I'M SURPRISED OUR GAMBIT DIDN'T DRAW HER ATTENTION. PERHAPS SHE'S GIVEN UP ON HER VENDETTA.



GIVE UP ON A CRUSADE FOR VENGEANCE THAT'S BEEN PASSED DOWN THROUGH GENERATIONS FOR A CENTURY AND A HALF? WHY DO I DOUBT THAT?



SHUNKK
AAAGGGHH!



ANGEL!

ABOUT TIME YOU GOT HERE.



I TOOK A
BIT OF A BREAK
TO FRESHEN UP,
BUT I NEVER
THOUGHT IT
WOULD TAKE
YOU LOT THIS
LONG TO COME
ROUND.



GILES,
WHAT'D SHE
DO TO ANGEL?

IT'S AN IZMIR DAGGER,
BUFFY. HE'LL BE
COMPLETELY PARALYZED
FOR SEVERAL
MINUTES.



MINUTES
YOU DON'T
HAVE.



DON'T DO
THIS. IT'S ME--
UNGHH--IT'S ME
YOU WANT
THEY'VE DONE
NOTHING TO YOU.



THE SLAYER
CARES FOR YOU.
THAT'S ENOUGH
TO WARRANT
HER DEATH.

AND AS FOR
YOU, RUPERT...YOU
SAID YOU LOVED
ME, ONCE UPON A
TIME. THIS IS HOW
YOU SHOW IT? BY
SIDING WITH THE
MONSTER WHO
TORTURED AND
SLAUGHTERED MY
ANCESTORS?



HE TORTURED
ME ONCE
UPON A TIME,
ALEXA. MURDERED
ANOTHER WOMAN
I LOVED. BUT HE
WARS AGAINST HIS OWN
DEMONS, STRIVES FOR
REDEMPTION, WHILE
YOU DO THE OPPOSITE.
IT'S NOT TOO LATE
FOR EITHER OF YOU.



YOU'RE
A HOMICIDAL
FREAK ON A
VENGEANCE KICK,
HONEY. YOU'RE A
DIME A DOZEN
IN L.A.



WITCH.



SOME-
BODY CALL
FOR A
WITCH?



"INFERNAL POWERS,
YOU WHO CARRY
DISTURBANCE INTO
THE UNIVERSE, WE BAR
YOU FROM THIS PLACE
LET ALL MAGIC AND
CHARMS BE NOW
UNDONE BY THE
TOUCH OF ERZULIE'S
ASHES."



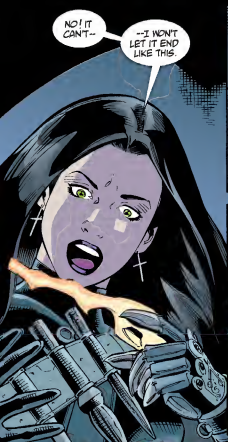
I NEVER
EXPECTED ANGELUS
TO HAVE SO MANY
PROTECTORS. BUT
IT DOESN'T
MATTER.



IT
MATTERS
NOW.

YOU'RE PRETTY
QUICK WITH
THE HIGH-AND-MIGHTY,
ALEXA. BUT LET'S FIND
OUT WHAT'S LEFT WHEN WE
STRIP AWAY ALL YOUR MAGIC, ALL
THE WEAPONS AND CHARMS
THE COUNCIL GAVE YOU.





NO! IT
CAN'T--

--I WON'T
LET IT END
LIKE THIS.



IT'S
OVER, ALEXA.
PLEASE...



IT WILL
NEVER BE
OVER, RUPERT.
NOT AS
LONG AS I
LIVE.

YOU'VE TAKEN
AWAY MY MAGIC, BUT
I WAS THE COUNCIL'S
TOP OPERATIVE BEFORE
I UTTERED MY FIRST
SPELL.



YOU WON'T
KILL ME. YOU
HAVE TO
PULL YOUR
PUNCHES.



THAT
GIVES ME THE
ADVANTAGE.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS, ALEXA. ANGEL HAS A HUMAN SOUL, AND HE SUFFERS FOR THE SINS OF THE DEMON WITHIN HIM. THE PAST IS A TEACHER, BUT FOR YOU IT HAS BEEN A PRISON.

IT'S ALL RIGHT, GILES. THIS IS ALL ON ME. I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.



MY WHOLE LIFE HAS LED UP TO THIS MOMENT, ANGELLUS. NOW YOU DIE!

ONLY IF I "PULL MY PUNCHES."



AND I WON'T.



YOU BROKE IT, YOU... HURT ME.

YOU'RE GOING DOWN A PARK ROAD, ALEXA. WHATEVER YOUR REASONS, YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR NOW. BUT IT ISN'T TOO LATE TO TURN BACK. NOT YET. YOU CAN STILL --



IT WAS TOO LATE THE DAY I WAS BORN.





SAD TO SAY...



...I'M BEGINNING TO AGREE WITH YOU.



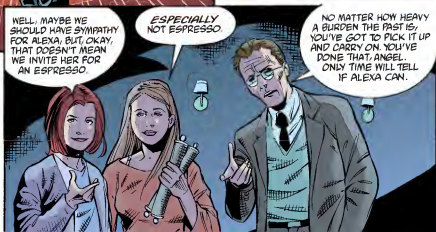
WHAT HAPPENS TO HER NOW?

MR. TRAVERS WILL CONTACT THE COUNCIL. THEY WILL DECIDE HER PUNISHMENT.



IT ALMOST DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT. HOW CAN ANYONE POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND THE WAY SHE WAS RAISED. THE HATE SHE WAS FED ALL HER LIFE?

THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO, ANGEL. NO WAY TO CHANGE THE PAST.



WELL, MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE SYMPATHY FOR ALEXA, BUT, OKAY, THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE INVITE HER FOR AN ESPRESSO.

ESPECIALLY NOT ESPRESSO

NO MATTER HOW HEAVY A BURDEN THE PAST IS, YOU'VE GOT TO PICK IT UP AND CARRY ON. YOU'VE DONE THAT, ANGEL. ONLY TIME WILL TELL IF ALEXA CAN.



WILL, YOU GUYS SHOULD'VE BEEN THERE. WHAM, BAM, THANK YOU VILLAGE OF THE DAMNED!

IT WAS QUICK AND BLOODY AND QUITE AROUSING. WE SNUCK INTO AN EMPTY NURSES' STATION AND--



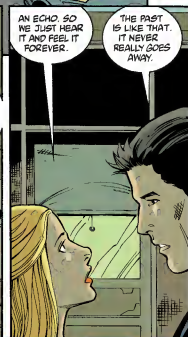
TAKING THEM AN AWFULLY LONG TIME TO SAY THEIR FAREWELLS, DON'T YOU THINK?

YOU'D THINK TIME WOULD MAKE IT EASIER, WOULDN'T YOU? BUT IT NEVER REALLY DOES.



I THINK I'M STARTING TO HATE THIS CITY. EVERY TIME I COME HERE, IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S JUST TO SAY GOOD-BYE.

GOODBYE FOR US WAS A LONG TIME AGO, BUFFY. THIS IS JUST AN ECHO.



AN ECHO. SO WE JUST HEAR IT AND FEEL IT FOREVER.

THE PAST IS LIKE THAT. IT NEVER REALLY GOES AWAY.



I GUESS I CAN LIVE WITH THAT. THERE ARE PARTS OF IT I KNOW I WANT TO HOLD ONTO.

I SHOULD GO THOUGH. YOU HAVE A LOT OF CLEANING UP TO DO. AND I...I'VE GOTTA GO HOME.



"THE FUTURE'S WAITING."

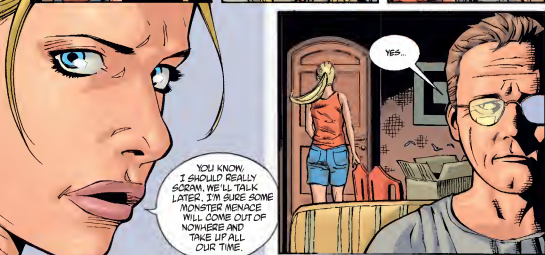
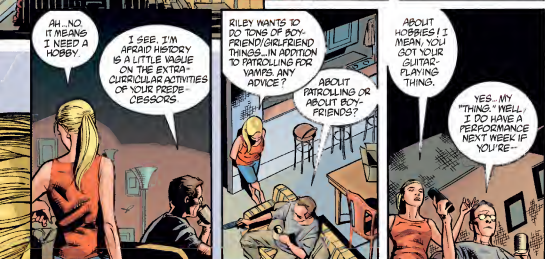
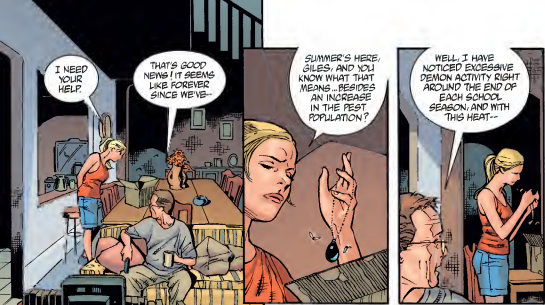
"NO TELLING WHAT MIGHT COME OF IT, BUT I'VE GOTTA BE THERE TO FIND OUT."

THE END

OUT OF THE WOODWORK







"...NICE
TALKING
WITH YOU,
TOO."

HEY! GET
OUTTA HERE!
THIS IS MY
ALLEY.

NOT
ANYMORE,
OLD MAN.



AAAAHHHHH

MAN,
HOW CAN
YOU EAT
THESE
BUMS?

I DON'T
KNOW, I SORTA
LIKE THE WAY
THEY TASTE...
HELLO, WHAT'S
THIS?



WELL,
LOOK AT
THAT. A
PERFECT
FIT.

COME ON,
QUIT FOOLIN'
AROUND! LET'S
GET SOME
COFFEE.



GREAT SHOW.

OH.

THANK YOU.



BUY YOU AN ICED TEA?

THANK YOU, BUT NO. I REALLY MUST BE GOING.



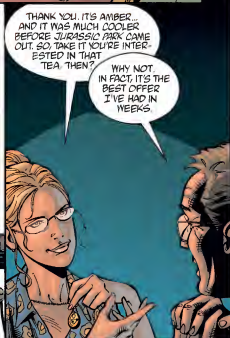
I REALLY LIKED YOUR VERSION OF "RASPBERRY BERET."

REALLY?



REALLY. PLAY HERE OFTEN?

NOT AS OFTEN AS I'D LIKE. THAT'S A BEAUTIFUL NECKLACE.



THANK YOU. IT'S AMBER... AND IT WAS MUCH COOLER BEFORE JURASSIC PARK CAME OUT. SO, TAKE IT YOU'RE INTERESTED IN THAT TEA, THEN?

WHY NOT. IN FACT, IT'S THE BEST OFFER I'VE HAD IN WEEKS.



GOD!
THERE'S FIVE
HUNDRED CHANNELS
OF NOTHING
ON TV!

AND TODAY ON NEWS
AT NOON, WE'LL BE
TALKING WITH WARREN
WHITCOMB, PROFESSOR
OF ENTOMOLOGY AT OUR
OWN SUNNYSIDE UNIVERSITY,
AND GETTING HIS VIEWS ON
HOW THE HEAT HAS
AFFECTED THE RECENT
OUTBREAK OF INSECTS.



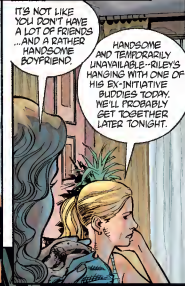
I'M SURPRISED
TO SEE YOU
HOME, YOU'RE
USUALLY SO
BUSY.

IT'S KINDA
HARD TO PATROL
FOR CREATURES
OF THE NIGHT
DURING THE
DAY.



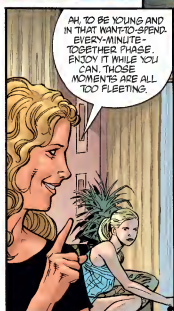
IS EVERY-
THING ALL
RIGHT?

I'M JUST
ALL ANTS-IN-
THE-PANTS NOW
THAT SCHOOL
IS OUT.



IT'S NOT LIKE
YOU DON'T HAVE
A LOT OF FRIENDS
...AND A RATHER
HANDSOME
BOYFRIEND.

HANDSOME
AND TEMPORARILY
UNAVAILABLE--RILEY'S
HANGING WITH ONE OF
HIS EX-INITIATIVE
BUDDIES TODAY.
WE'LL PROBABLY
GET TOGETHER
LATER TONIGHT.



AH, TO BE YOUNG AND
IN THAT WANT-TO-SPEND-
EVERY-MINUTE-
TOGETHER PHASE.
ENJOY IT WHILE YOU
CAN, THOSE
MOMENTS ARE ALL
TOO FLEETING.



SO YOU
STILL GOING
OUT WITH THAT
GUNG-HO
GIRL?

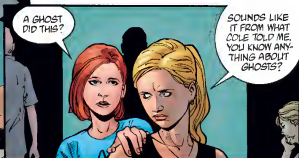
BUFFY,
YEAH, SHE'S
EXTREME ALL
RIGHT, AND I
WOULDN'T WANT
HER ANY
OTHER
WAY.







THERE'S NO SWELLING OF THE BRAIN, WHICH WOULD SUGGEST NO INTERNAL INJURY, EVEN THOUGH THIS IS A GOOD SIGN, I'M AFRAID THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO NOW IS WAIT.



A GHOST DID THIS?

SOUNDS LIKE IT FROM WHAT COLE TOLD ME, YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT GHOSTS?



I HAD THAT "TURN INTO A GHOST" HALLOWEEN A COUPLE YEARS AGO, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M THE EXPERT. I THINK WE SHOULD DO A GILES VISIT.



I HONESTLY THOUGHT NOW THAT SUMMER HAS ARRIVED, I JUST MIGHT GET SOME TIME TO MYSELF. OBVIOUSLY, I WAS MISTAKEN.



WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT GHOSTS?

OH DEAR LORD, NOT TONIGHT. WHAT'S HAPPENED?



RILEY AND ONE OF HIS EX-MILITARY BUDDIES HAD A CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE GHOSTLY KIND LAST NIGHT. IT ATTACKED RILEY...

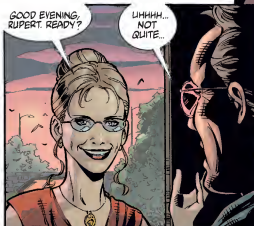
OH, BUFFY, I'M SO SORRY. I--



HE'S AT THE HOSPITAL IN SOME SORT OF COMA--

KNOCK KNOCK

AH... EXCUSE ME.



GOOD EVENING, RUPERT. READY?

UHHHH...
NOT QUITE...



REBECCA STANSBERRY, THIS IS BUFFY SUMMERS AND WILLOW ROSENBERG. TWO FRIENDS--STUDENTS, ACTUALLY--FROM MY LIBRARIAN DAYS. REBECCA'S IN TOWN FOR THE SUMMER LIBRARIAN'S SEMINAR AT THE UNIVERSITY.

UH--HI.

HELLO.



ALWAYS NICE TO MEET BOOK-LOVING GIRLS.

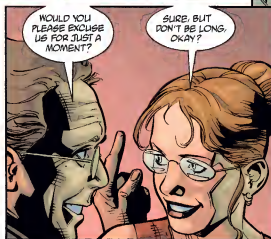
I'M SORRY TO SAY THIS, REBECCA, BUT SOMETHING RATHER IMPORTANT HAS COME UP.



OH...BUT RUPERT...

GILES, DON'T BREAK YOUR PLANS FOR US.

WILLOW!



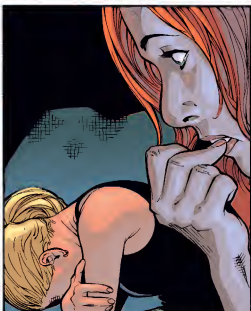
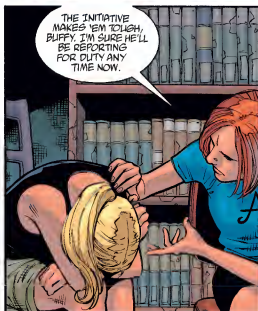
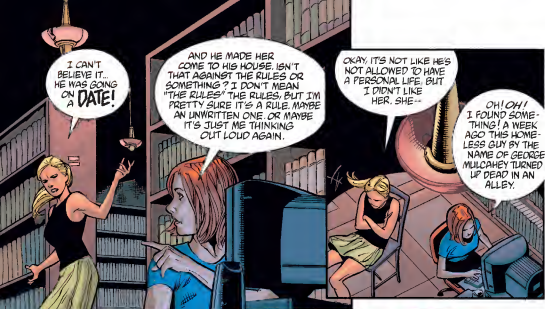
WOULD YOU PLEASE EXCUSE US FOR JUST A MOMENT?

SURE, BUT DON'T BE LONG, OKAY?



GILES, WE'LL GO TO THE LIBRARY TO SEARCH THE PAPERS FOR ANY LEADS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE YOU WENT OUT.

IT'S NOT BEEN THAT LONG...STILL, I'LL GO TO THE HOSPITAL AFTER DINNER TO CHECK ON RILEY'S CONDITION.





THANKS, WILL
OKAY, TELL ME
ABOUT THIS
DEAD GUY.

LOOKS
LIKE HE HAD
SOME SERIOUS
BITE MARKS
ON THE
NECK...



...THEN A FEW DAYS
LATER, PEOPLE STARTED
REPORTING STRANGE STUFF
LIKE WEIRD LIGHTS, STRANGE
NOISES--ALL YOUR REQUISITE
HAUNTING-TYPE EVENTS.
THERE'RE A FEW MENTIONS
OF IT OVER THE COURSE
OF THE WEEK, AND IT
ALL TAKES PLACE IN
THE SAME ALLEY.



LET ME
GUESS...
MCCOLLUM
LANE,
RIGHT?

YEP,
RIGHT OFF
SCOTT
STREET,
BY THE
BRONZE.

ALL
RIGHT,
THAT'S
OUR
GHOST.



WAY I SEE IT,
IT'S OKAY THAT I'M
IN BETWEEN JOBS.
THAT'S WHY IT'S
CALLED SUMMER
VACATION.

DOESN'T
THAT ONLY COUNT
IF YOU'RE STILL IN
SCHOOL?



OUCH,
WHERE'S
THE LOVE,
AHN?







FEEL THAT?

IT JUST GOT ALL FREEZY



GIVE IT BACK...

CUT IT OUT, XANDER, I DON'T LIKE IT WHEN YOU USE "CREEPY GUY" VOICE.

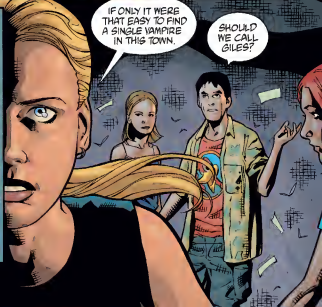
IT'S NOT ME--
LOOK...



I AM SO GOING TO KICK YOUR--



AAAH!



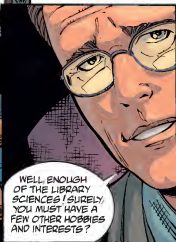


MY, I DON'T BELIEVE I'VE EVER COME ACROSS SOMEONE WHO ACTUALLY PREFERS CATALOGUING BY CUTTER-SANBORN INSTEAD OF THE GOOD OLD-FASHIONED DEWEY DECIMAL.

I DIDN'T SAY THAT! I JUST THINK IT'S A VIABLE CATALOGUING ALTERNATIVE. YOU SEE, DEAR RUPERT, I'M A BIT OF AN ALTERNATIVE LIBRARIAN.

NATURALLY AND A QUITE BEAUTIFUL ONE, IF I MAY BE SO FORWARD.

YOU MAY.



WELL, ENOUGH OF THE LIBRARY SCIENCES! SURELY, YOU MUST HAVE A FEW OTHER HOBBIES AND INTERESTS?



OH, I HAVE A FEW...



YOWZA! A NEW GIRL-FRIEND?

I DON'T KNOW. SHE'S DEFINITELY A GIRL, AND THEY SEEMED AWFUL FRIENDLY... BUT WOULD YOU SAY FULL-ON GIRL-FRIEND, BUFFY?



FORGET GILES. I'VE GOT A DATE OF MY OWN...

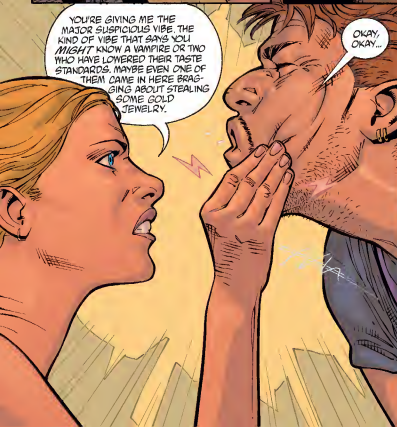


NEED A DRINK...
SLAYER?

I NEED TO
KNOW IF THERE'S
BEEN A VAMPIRE-
KILLING SPREE
ON HOMELESS
GUYS.



HOMELESS
GUYS? I HEAR
THEY DON'T TASTE
TOO GOOD.

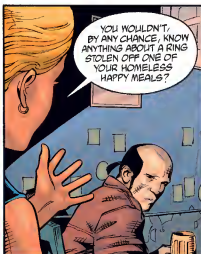


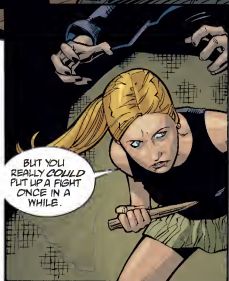
YOU'RE GIVING ME THE
MAJOR SUSPICIOUS VIBE. THE
KIND OF VIBE THAT SAYS YOU
MIGHT KNOW A VAMPIRE OR TWO
WHO HAVE LOWERED THEIR TASTE
STANDARDS. MAYBE EVEN ONE OF
THEM CAME IN HERE BRAG-
GING ABOUT STEALING
SOME GOLD
JEWELRY.

OKAY,
OKAY...

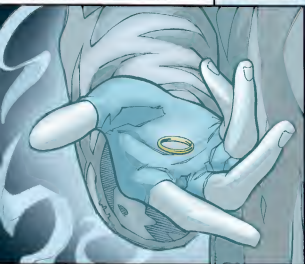


YOU
MIGHT WANT
TO TRY THE
LONGER BACK
THERE.

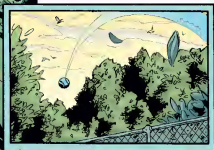




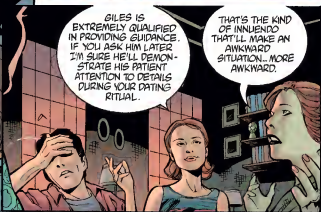
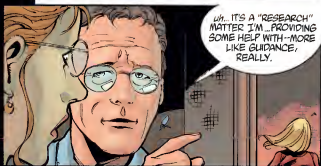










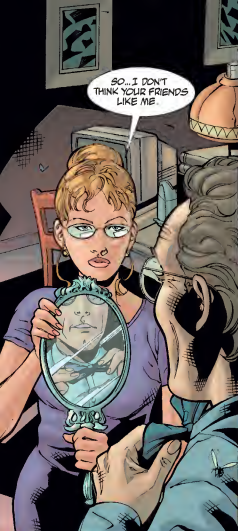




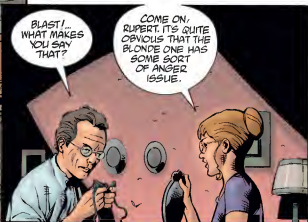
SHIK







SO...I DON'T
THINK YOUR FRIENDS
LIKE ME.



BLAST!
WHAT MAKES
YOU SAY
THAT?

COME ON,
RUPERT. IT'S QUITE
OBVIOUS THAT THE
BLONDE ONE HAS
SOME SORT
OF ANGER
ISSUE.



BUFFY? REALLY,
NOW. HER BOY-
FRIEND IS IN
A COMA.

MAYBE
SO, BUT IT'S MORE
THAN THAT. CALL
IT WOMAN'S
INTUITION.



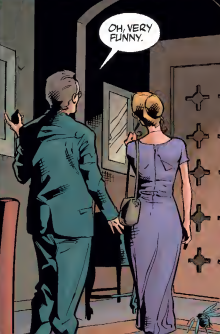
OKAY, INTUITION
IT IS, THEN, NOW,
TO THE MATTER
AT HAND: WHERE
ARE YOU
TAKING
ME?

THERE'S A
LITTLE GET
TOGETHER FOR
ALL THE
CONFERENCE
ATTENDEES,
AND I THOUGHT
I'D DRAG YOU
ALONG. GET
YOU OUT
OF THE
HOUSE.



SO YOU'RE
TAKING ME TO
A LIBRARIAN
MIXER?

WHY NOT?
MIGHT DO
YOU SOME
GOOD TO
HANG OUT
WITH PEOPLE
YOUR OWN
AGE FOR A
CHANGE.



OH, VERY
FUNNY.



WHAT
THE
HELL?

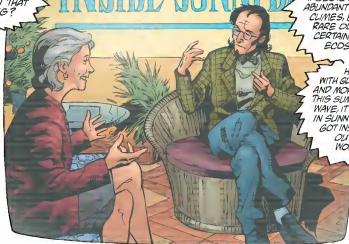


I THOUGHT BUFFY
DID AWAY WITH YOU
THINGS. BUT IF YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR A
BEATING, YOU CAME
TO THE RIGHT
PLACE!

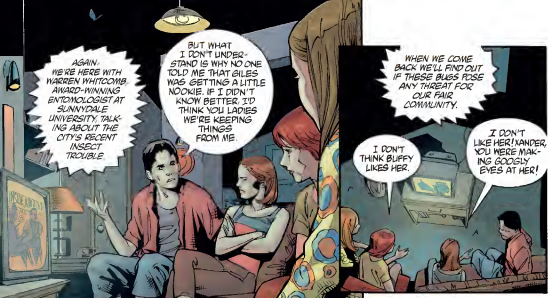
AND
INSECTS
GET THAT
BIG?

INSIDE SUNNYDALE

NOT AS BIG AS
SOME PEOPLE HAVE
BEEN CLAIMING! LARGE
INSECTS ARE QUITE
ABUNDANT IN TROPICAL
CLIMES, BUT FAIRLY
RARE OUTSIDE OF
CERTAIN ISOLATED
ECOSYSTEMS.



HOWEVER,
WITH GLOBAL WARMING,
AND MORE SPECIFICALLY,
THIS SUMMER'S HEAT
WAVE, IT APPEARS THAT
IN SUNNYDALE...WE'VE
GOT INSECTS COMING
OUT OF THE
WOODWORK.



AGAIN.
WE'RE HERE WITH
WARREN WHITCOMB,
AWARD-WINNING
ENTOMOLOGIST AT
SUNNYDALE
UNIVERSITY, TALK-
ING ABOUT THE
CITY'S RECENT
INSECT
TROUBLE.

BUT WHAT
I DON'T UNDER-
STAND IS WHY NO ONE
TOLD ME THAT GILES
WAS GETTING A LITTLE
NOOKIE. IF I DIDN'T
KNOW BETTER, I'D
THINK YOU LADIES
WE'RE KEEPING
THINGS
FROM ME.

WHEN WE COME
BACK WE'LL FIND OUT
IF THESE BUGS POSE
ANY THREAT FOR
OUR FAIR
COMMUNITY.

I DON'T
THINK BUFFY
LIKES HER.

I DON'T
LIKE HER! KANDER,
YOU WERE MAK-
ING GOOGLY
EYES AT HER!



WHAT?! SURE
SHE'S A GOOD-
LOOKING BOO-
BARE, BUT THESE
EYES ARE ONLY
GOOGLY
FOR YOU.

DID ANY-
ONE NOTICE HER
NECKLACE?



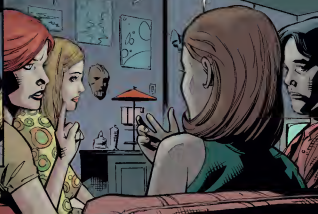
IT WAS
A FLY IN AMBER.
IT JUST MADE
ME THINK...

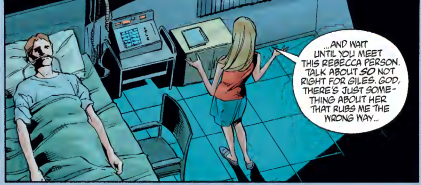


PLEASE! IT'S JUST
A NECKLACE. MAN, WHAT
I WOULDN'T GIVE TO HAVE
AT LEAST ONE OTHER
GUY'S OPINION.

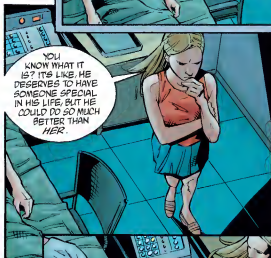
WELL SHE
IS CREEPY. I
CAN'T WAIT TO
HEAR WHAT
BUFFY
THINKS ABOUT
THIS

BUFFY WILL
AGREE WITH US
GIRLS, BECAUSE WE
KNOW WHAT WE'RE
TALKING ABOUT. THERE'S
SOMETHING ABOUT
THIS REBECCA
THAT'S NOT
RIGHT.





...AND WAIT UNTIL YOU MEET THIS REBECCA PERSON. TALK ABOUT SO NOT RIGHT FOR GILES. GOD, THERE'S JUST SOMETHING ABOUT HER THAT RUBS ME THE WRONG WAY...



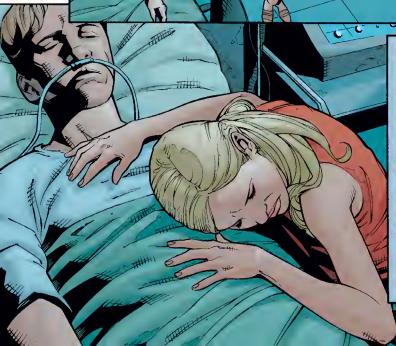
YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS? IT'S LIKE, HE DESERVES TO HAVE SOMEONE SPECIAL IN HIS LIFE, BUT HE COULD DO SO MUCH BETTER THAN HER.



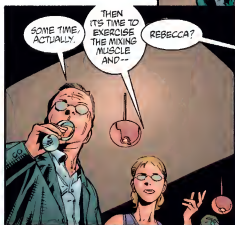
OKAY, OKAY. I KNOW I'M BEING HARD ON HER, BUT GILES AND I ARE A TEAM. HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE THERE FOR ME.

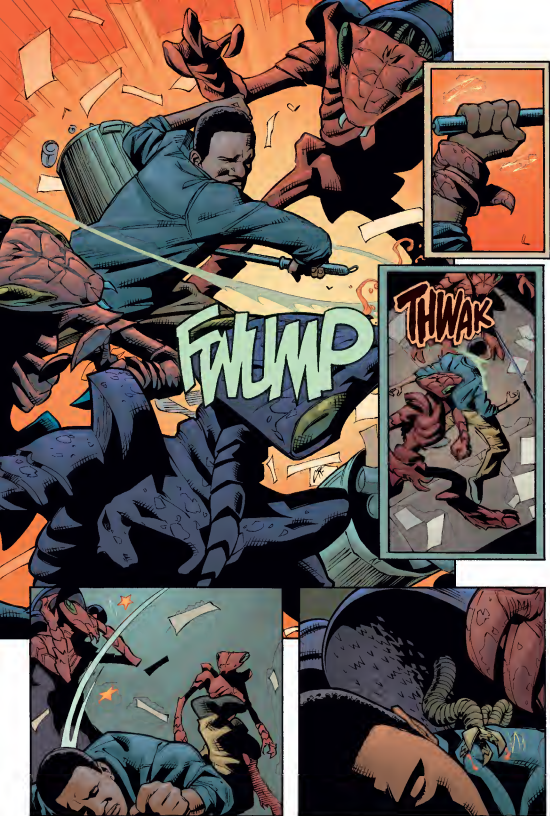


IT'S JUST SO SUDDEN. WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO? WHAT COULD I SAY TO HIM THAT WOULD EXPRESS WHAT I'M GOING THROUGH?



THANKS, RILEY, FOR BEING HERE.







YOU
MEAN YOU
ACTUALLY
DATED
HIM?

WHAT CAN
I SAY? WE SHARED
A LOT IN COMMON, BUT
NOT SO MUCH
ANYMORE.

WELL, I COULD
CERTAINLY TAKE THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO MENTION
HOW MUCH YOU AND I HAVE
IN COMMON... BUT I'D RATHER
SIMPLY TELL YOU THAT I
ENJOY BEING WITH YOU
TREMENDOUSLY.

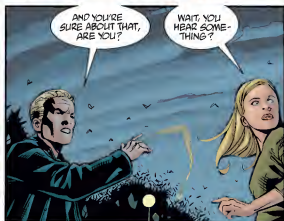
I MUST
SAY YOU'RE
QUITE THE
CHARMER.

ALMOST
NINE O'CLOCK
AND IT'S STILL
SWELTERING. CAN
I INTEREST YOU
IN AN ICED
MOCHA THIS
EVENING?

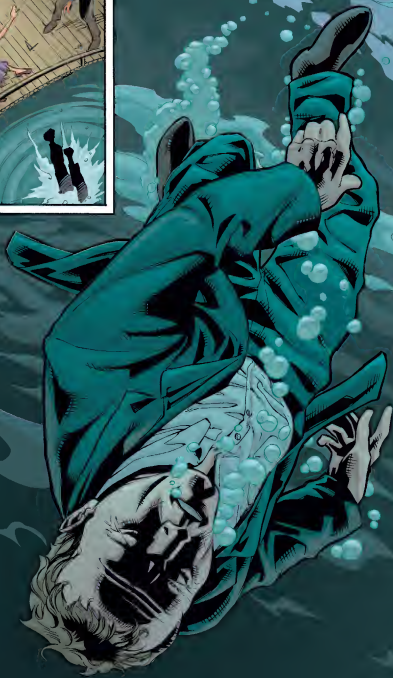
AH, MR. GILES.
YOU DO KNOW THE
WAY TO A WOMAN'S
HEART. CAN WE TAKE
THE LONG WAY
THROUGH THE
PARK?

AS YOU
WISH.











WHAT
THE HELL IS
THAT?

LOOKS
LIKE A BIG
BUG.



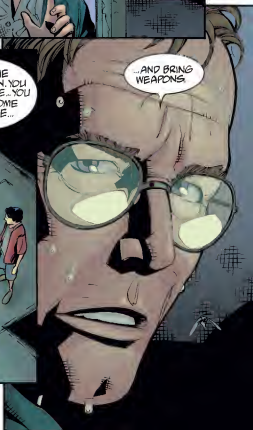
BIG OR
NOT, WE CAN
TAKE IT. YOU GO
LEFT, I'LL GO
RIGHT.

WHY DON'T
YOU GO RIGHT
TO HELL!
YOU'RE JUST
GOING TO BE
IN MY
WAY--AS
USUAL!



AM
NOT!

HSSSSSS









WAIT...I
KNOW THIS...GUY.
HE WAS IN THE
INITIATIVE UNDER
RILEY WHAT
HAPPENED
TO HIM?



THIS IS THE
CREATURE THAT
ATTACKED US, BUT
IT'S ALREADY...
CHANGING...INTO
SOMETHING
ELSE.

CREEPY...



YOU SAID IT,
GILES, LET'S
TAKE HIM BACK
TO YOUR PLACE
AND FIND OUT
WHAT HE DID
TO YOUR GIRL-
FRIEND.

I WILL
NOT HAVE THIS
THING IN MY
FLAT--AND,
PLEASE, DON'T
REFER TO HER AS
MY GIRLFRIEND.
WE'VE ONLY
HAD A FEW
DATES.

I'LL TELL
YOU RIGHT
NOW--I'M
NOT TAKING
HIM.



HOW ABOUT
WHERE WE USED TO
CAGE UP OZ?

WELL,
HE'S NOT
USING
IT!

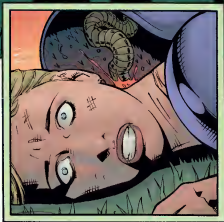


BLOODY
INSECT...

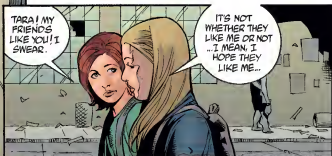


NOW TO
TAKE CARE OF
YOUR BIG UGLY
BOSS...











WE'RE GLAD
기쁘게? YOU
CAME
TO SEE USSS

UMMMMM
- I WISH I
COULD SAY
IT'S MUTUAL



WE BROUGHT
YOU SOME...

기쁘게! FOOD! 기쁘게!



EEEEWWWW!
I COULD'VE GONE
MY WHOLE LIFE WITH-
OUT SEEING THAT.

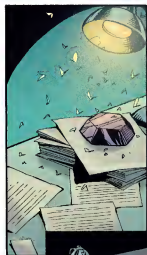


HELP
ME! WE...NO,
NOT ME, I...I
DON'T...HAVE
기쁘게!
MUCH TIME
LEFT.

WHAT
DO WE
DO?

WE'D BETTER
GO TELL GILES.
HE'S OUR BEST
BET, SINCE WE
DON'T HAVE
A BUG
EXPERT.





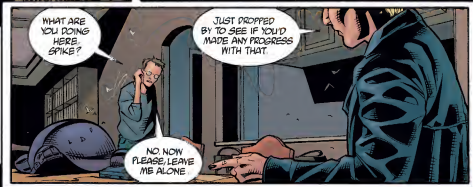
AND WITH THE LOCAL
INSECT POPULATION
EXPLODING WITH NO
APPARENT END IN SIGHT,
A DIFFERENT KIND OF
INSECT MYSTERY HIT
SUNNYDALE THIS
MORNING WHEN RENOWNED
ENTOMOLOGIST DR. WARREN
WHITCOMB DISAPPEARED
FROM HIS CAMPUS
OFFICE.

MORE ON THAT
STORY HERE ON
NEWS AT NOON,
AFTER THESE
MESSAGES.





DID WE
HAVE A LATE
NIGHT? YOU'RE
CERTAINLY A
PRETTY
PICTURE.



WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE,
SPIKE?

JUST DROPPED
BY TO SEE IF YOU'D
MADE ANY PROGRESS
WITH THAT.

NO. NOW
PLEASE, LEAVE
ME ALONE.

THE SLAYER
HAD ME DRAG THE
THING HALFWAY CROSS
SUNNYDALE LAST NIGHT
'CAUSE SHE SAYS YOU'LL
WANT TO TAKE A LOOK-
SEE. AND HERE YOU
ARE, NOT AT ALL YOUR
CHIPPER SELF. WHAT'S
THE MATTER, GIRL
TROUBLE?

I DON'T
SEE HOW THAT'S
ANY OF YOUR
BUSINESS.

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?



OH,
GOODY. THE
THOMPSON
TIVINS.

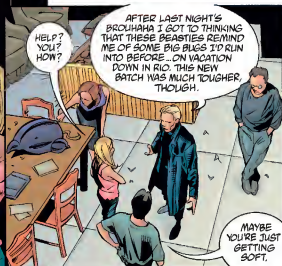
WOW, GILES,
YOU LOOK
TERRIBLE.

ANYA!
WE TALKED
ABOUT BEING
POLITE



WHY ARE
YOU ALWAYS
HANGING AROUND?
DO YOU REALLY
THINK WE
WANT YOU
HERE?

LOOK, I JUST DROPPED BY
TO SEE HOW *SULKY* OVER
HERE WAS COMING ALONG
WITH THIS BUG-THINGY.
THOUGHT I MIGHT BE
ABLE TO HELP.



HELP?
YOU?
HOW?

AFTER LAST NIGHT'S
BROUHAHA I GOT TO THINKING
THAT THESE BEASTIES REMIND
ME OF SOME BIG BUGS I'D RUN
INTO BEFORE...ON VACATION
DOWN IN RIO. THIS NEW
BATCH WAS MUCH TOUGHER,
THOUGH.

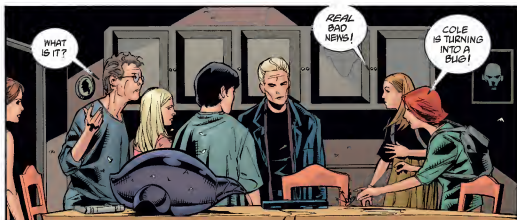
MAYBE
YOU'RE JUST
GETTING
SOFT.



OH, THAT'S RICH COMING
FROM YOU, HIDING THERE
BEHIND YOUR PAL THE SLAYER. ANY
TIME YOU WANT TO TRY ME, CREAM-
PUFF, YOU JUST LET
ME KNOW.



BAD
NEWS!



WHAT IS IT?

REAL BAD NEWS!

COLE IS TURNING INTO A BUG!

BUT COLE WAS TURNING INTO A BUG LAST NIGHT.

NOW IT'S HAPPENING REALLY, REALLY FAST. AND HE'S TALKING LIKE HE'S CONNECTED TO SOMETHING...LIKE MENTALLY.

OKAY, HAVE A NICE DAY.

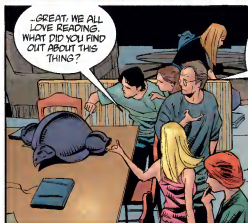
AHH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE POLITE TO SPIKE

SOCIAL INTERACTION IS SO CONFUSING!

ANYWAY, I FOUND A FEW BOOKS THAT MIGHT BE OF SOME HELP. DEMONIC ENTOMOLOGY, BAAL ZEBUB VENENARE...



BOLLOCKS! IF NO ONE WANTS OLD SPIKE'S GENEROUS OFFER OF HELP, I'M TAKING IT OFF THE TABLE. BESIDES, I'VE GOT TO GO MET THE OLD WHISTLE.

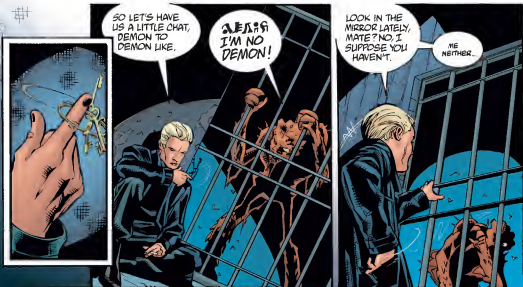


...GREAT, WE ALL LOVE READING. WHAT DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THIS THING?

NOT VERY MUCH. IT SEEMS TO BE A DELIVERY SYSTEM FOR SOME SORT OF SPORE OR EGG INFESTATION. NO DOUBT IT'S WHAT'S AFFECTING COLE.

HEY, HAS ANYONE SEEN MY KEYS?

SPIKE!





AND YOU HAVEN'T EVEN LOOKED AT THIS THING? COME ON GILES, I NEED YOU TO FOCUS.

I HAD A BAD NIGHT, BUFFY.

LIKE MY NIGHT DIDN'T TOTALLY SUCK, WITH RILEY STILL--



HEY, GUYS, CAN WE PUT THIS ASIDE? I THINK I FOUND OUT WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH.

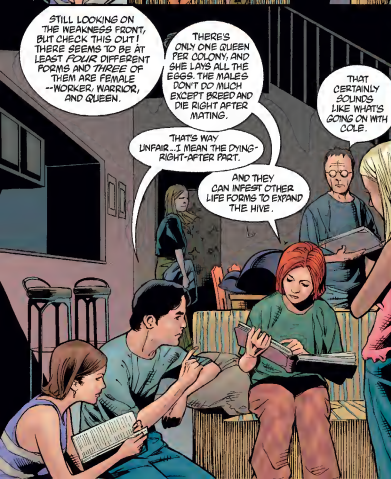


OH! LOOK AT THIS!



LIRUKHAI, A RACE OF SOCIAL INSECTS WITH A HIGHLY DEVELOPED HIVE MIND.

DOES IT SAY ANYTHING ABOUT A WEAKNESS?



STILL LOOKING ON THE WEAKNESS FRONT, BUT CHECK THIS OUT! THERE SEEMS TO BE AT LEAST FOUR DIFFERENT FORMS AND THREE OF THEM ARE FEMALE --WORKER, WARRIOR, AND QUEEN.

THERE'S ONLY ONE QUEEN PER COLONY, AND SHE LAYS ALL THE EGGS. THE MALES DON'T DO MUCH EXCEPT BREED AND DIE RIGHT AFTER MATING.

THAT'S WAY UNFAIR...I MEAN THE DYING-RIGHT-AFTER PART.

AND THEY CAN INFEST OTHER LIFE FORMS TO EXPAND THE HIVE.

THAT CERTAINLY SOUNDS LIKE WHAT'S GOING ON WITH COLE.

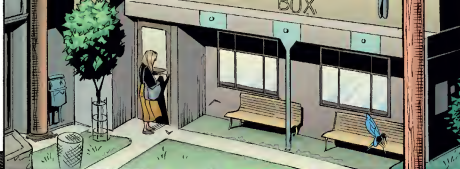


WHAT DID YOU FIND, TARA?



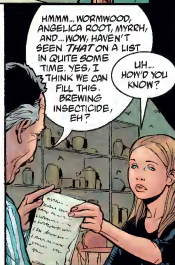
HEY...

WHERE'S TARA?



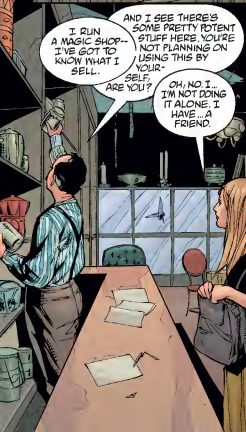
GOOD AFTER-
NOON AND WELCOME
TO THE MAGIC BOX.
CAN I HELP YOU
FIND SOMETHING?

I...I
HAVE A
LIST.



HMMM... WORMWOOD,
ANGELICA ROOT, MYRCH,
AND... NOW, HAVEN'T
SEEN THAT ON A LIST
IN QUITE SOME
TIME. YES, I
THINK WE CAN
FILL THIS.
BREWING
INSECTICIDE,
EH?

UH...
HOW'D YOU
KNOW?

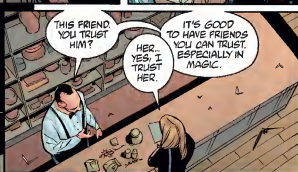


I RUN
A MAGIC SHOP--
I'VE GOT TO
KNOW WHAT I
SELL.

AND I SEE THERE'S
SOME PRETTY POTENT
STUFF HERE. YOU'RE
NOT PLANNING ON
USING THIS BY
YOUR-
SELF.

ARE YOU?

OH, NO. I...
I'M NOT DOING
IT ALONE. I
HAVE... A
FRIEND.



THIS FRIEND.
YOU TRUST
HIM?

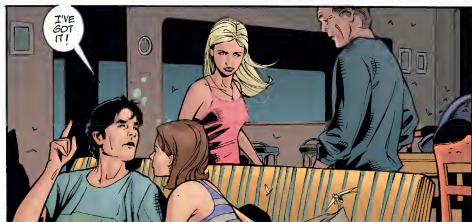
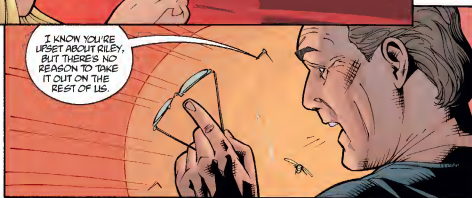
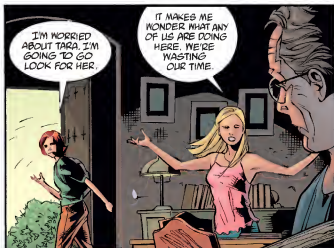
HER...
YES, I
TRUST
HER.

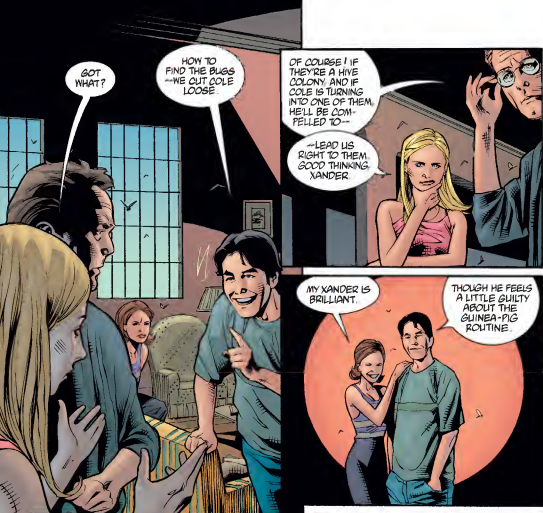
IT'S GOOD
TO HAVE FRIENDS
YOU CAN TRUST.
ESPECIALLY IN
MAGIC.

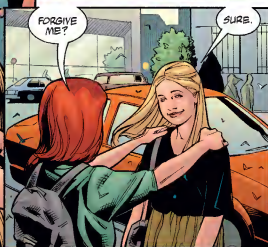
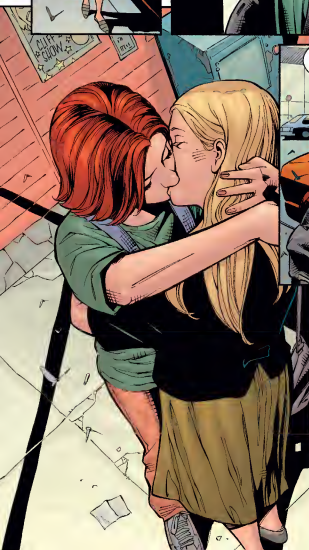


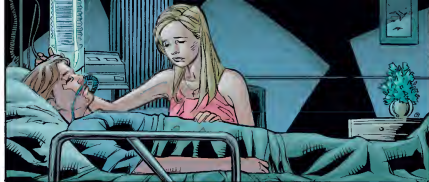
THANKS
FOR THE
HELP.

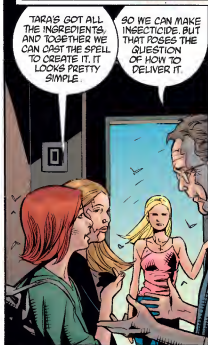
GOOD
LUCK.











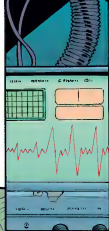
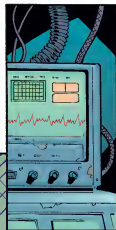






WELCOME VISITORS!
ALTHOUGH
WE DID
EXPECT YOU
SOONER...

MY GOD!
YOU!



BUFFY!

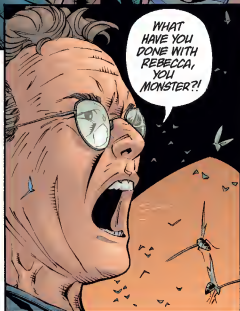




HEY, THAT'S THE DUDE FROM TV. HE'S A MAD SCIENTIST-TURNED-BUG! OF COURSE! IT'S SO OBVIOUS!

SOME-
HOW I DON'T
THINK HE'S
QUITE HIM-
SELF THESE
DAYS.

WE HAVE
GROWN STRONG... THE
HIVE HAS GROWN... MEAT.
SO HOT, THE QUEEN... WE
MUST POPULATE.



WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE WITH
REBECCA,
YOU
MONSTER?!



NO ONE
...UNDERSTOOD
HUMAN
WHITCOMB! WANTED
TO HELP US...
CONTINUE TO
BREED... HAD TO
UNDERSTAND OUR
SECRET...



HUMAN
WHITCOMB THOUGHT
HE COULD CONTROL US...
CONTROL THE
HIVE...



BUT YOU...
DESTROYED HIS
PLANS... SHATTERED
THE BALANCE
OF THE HIVE...



ME?



UH-OH.



NOW...IT'S
TIME...FOR YOU
TO SERVE...THE
HIVE AGAIN...





WAIT!
WHAT DO YOU
MEAN 'SHATTERED
THE BALANCE OF
THE HIVE'?

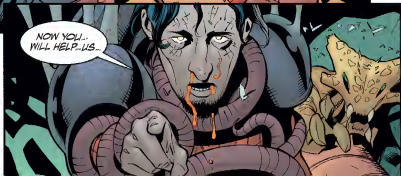
YOUR
ACTIONS...THE
HEAT...CAUSED
US TO
SWARM...



I SEE...
OVERPOPULATION.
AND NOW THEY'RE
LOOKING FOR A NEW
HOME.

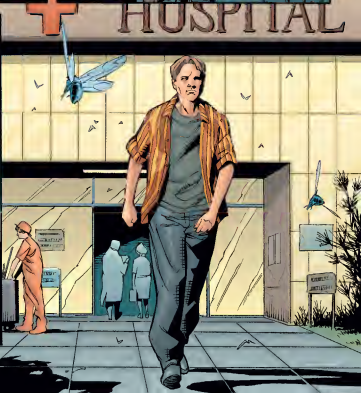
THAT CAN'T
BE GOOD. IT'S
NEVER GOOD WHEN
DEMONS MIDDLE
IN THE AFFAIRS
OF MEN.

LIKE,
DUH.



NOW YOU...
WILL HELP...US...







XANDER,
DO YOU SEE
TARA?

I CAN'T SEE
ANYTHING BUT
BUGS! I THINK
SHE GOT DRAGGED
OFF IN THIS
DIRECTION.



HANG ON, TARA.
WE'LL FLUMIGATE
THESE CRITTERS TO
EXTINCTION!



TARA!



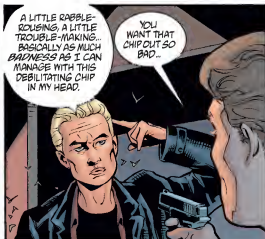
COME TO
DADDY.



NOT A
BAD DAY'S
WORK, SPIKE
OLD BOY.



WHAT
THE HELL
ARE YOU
DOING
HERE?



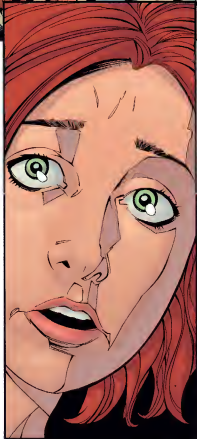


WE HAVE
TO GO BACK
FOR TARA!

THE WAY
WHITCOMB BABBLED
ON MADE IT SEEM LIKE
THESE BUGS WERE
GATHERING MORE AND
MORE POWER--
BUT HOW?



BUFFY
CAN HELP TARA--
WE SHOULD BE
CONCERNED
WITH FREEING
REBECCA.

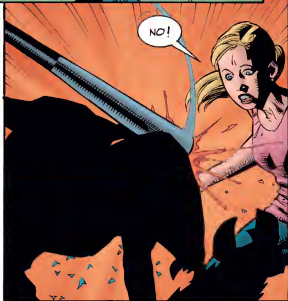


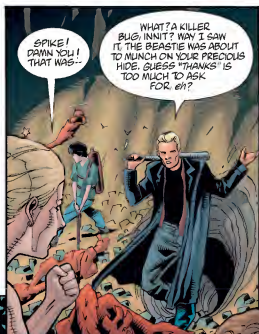
STOP IT!
WE HAVE TO
STICK TOGETHER.
WE'RE A TEAM,
RIGHT?

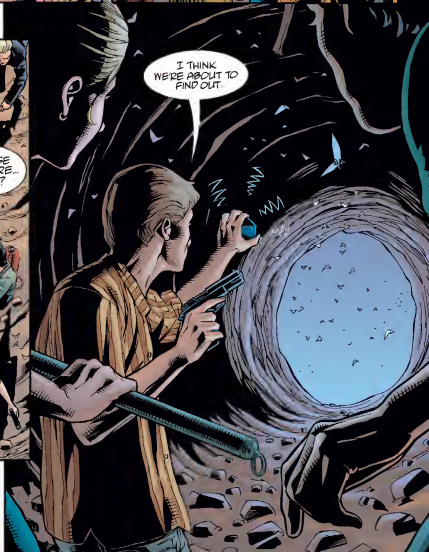


THE SOONER
WE STOP FIGHTING, THE
SOONER WE CAN FIND
XANDER.









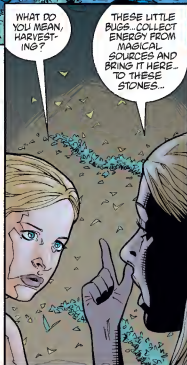


HEY, THIS IS JUST LIKE ENIK AND HIS CRYSTALS.

WHAT THE BLOODY HELL ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT?

COME ON, *LAND OF THE LOST!* YOU UNDEAD TYPES SURE MISS OUT ON SOME GREAT POP CULTURE MOMENTS

THEY'RE... HARVESTING ENERGY.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HARVESTING?

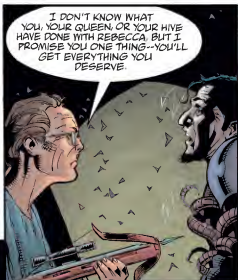
THESE LITTLE BUGS... COLLECT ENERGY FROM MAGICAL SOURCES AND BRING IT HERE... TO THESE STONES...



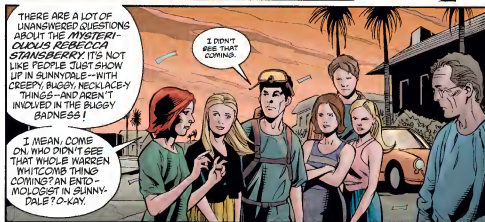
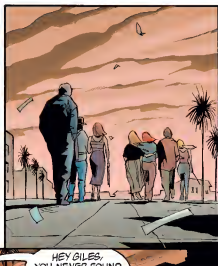
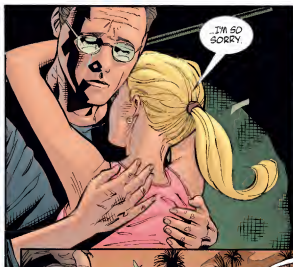
...I - I THINK THIS IS THEIR SOURCE OF POWER.



WELL, THEN LET'S UNPLUG 'EM.

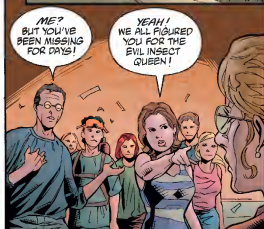








WHERE
IN THE WORLD
HAVE YOU BEEN,
RUPERT?



ME?
BUT YOU'VE
BEEN MISSING
FOR DAYS!

YEAH!
WE ALL FIGURED
YOU FOR THE
EVIL INSECT
QUEEN!



MISSING?
INSECT--? I WAS
ATTACKED...NEXT
THING I REMEMBER
WAS WAKING UP IN THE
HOSPITAL. RUPERT,
YOU WERE NOWHERE
AROUND.

AND AS FOR
YOU KIDS...WHAT
IS THIS--*DAWSON'S
CREEK MEETS
X-FILES?*

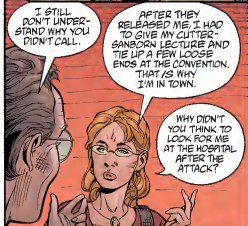


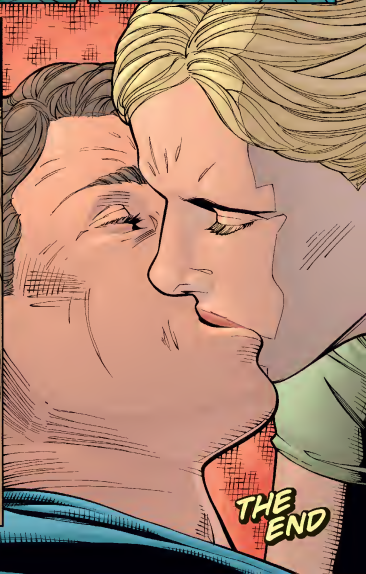
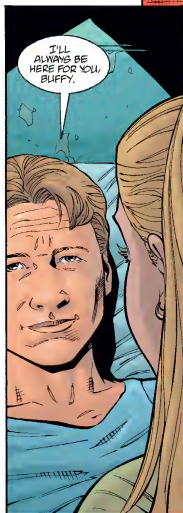
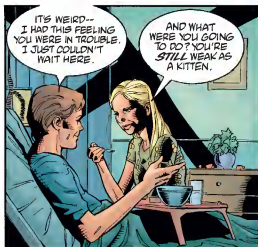
WE COULD
ASK YOU THE
SAME THING--
WHAT'S THE DEAL
WITH THAT FLY-IN-
AMBER PENDANT
YOU'RE ALWAYS
WEARING?

OH, THAT'S
RICH, QUESTIONING
MY NECKLACE WHEN
YOU ALL ARE WALKING
AROUND IN PUBLIC LIKE
A MINI-MILITIA...AND
YOU WITH AN
AXE EVEN!

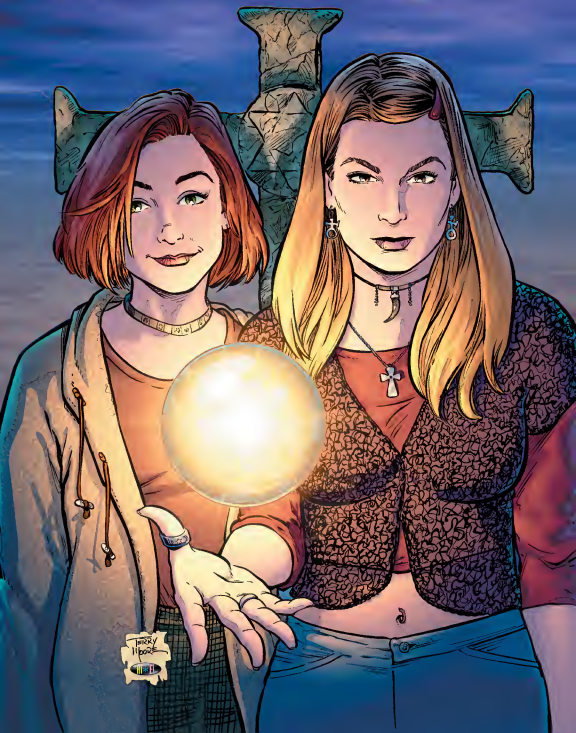


I MEAN,
YOU'RE ON SUMMER
BREAK. YOU SHOULD BE
GOING TO THE MOVIES,
HANGING OUT IN CLUBS,
GOING TO THE BEACH...
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY
HOBBIES?





Willow & Tara







TRY ONE.
THEY'RE
REALLY
SWEET.

THIS WAS
SUCH A
G-GREAT IDEA,
WILLOW. WHO
NEEDS THAT
ASTRONOMY
CLASS
ANYWAY?

NOT YOU.
YOU NEEDED AN
OLD-FASHIONED
PICNIC AND,
BEHOLD...
PICNIC.



ALL WE
NEED NOW IS
YOGI BEAR.

I THINK NOT,
TARA! HE CAN
FILCH HIS OWN
PICNIC
BASKET!

HOW
LONG DO
YOU THINK
BUFFY WILL
BE IN
L. A.?



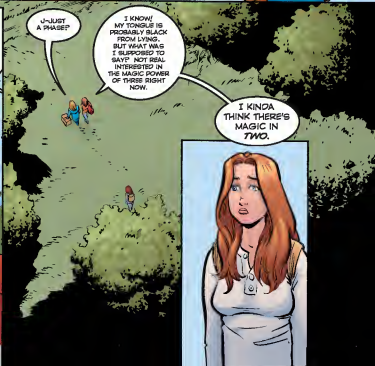
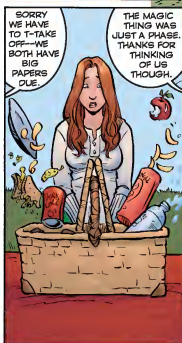
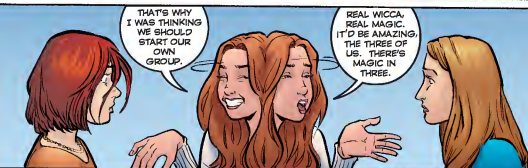
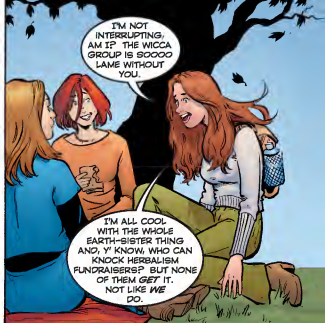
AS LONG
AS ANGEL'S GOT
TROUBLE, I GUESS.
NO MORE TALK
OF GLOOMY ANGEL,
THOUGH. ONLY
HAPPY THOUGHTS.
SUNSHINE, PICNIC,
THAT SPELL WE DID
LAST NIGHT.

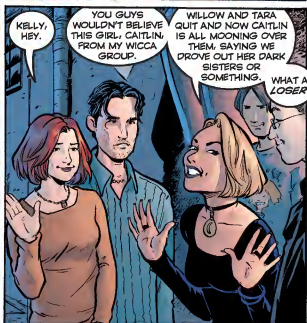
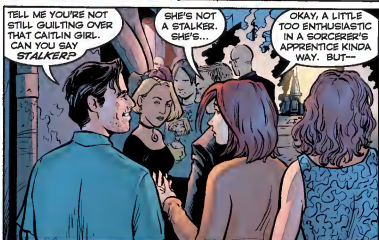
WITH
THE
OIL?

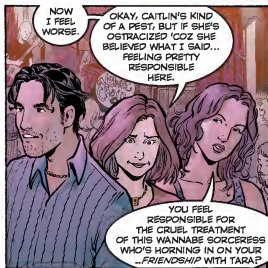


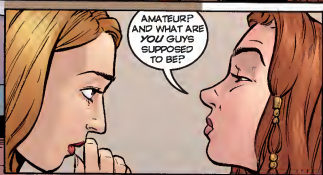
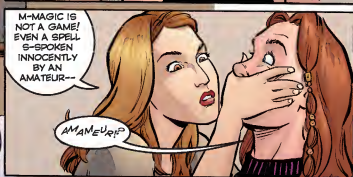
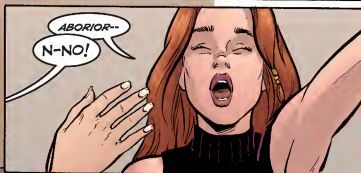
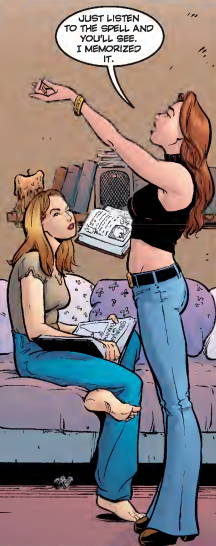
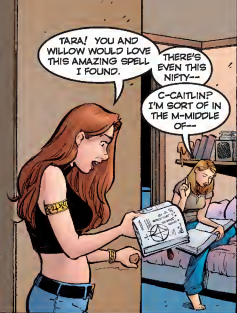
ONLY
HAPPY
THOUGHTS.

Wannablesedbet

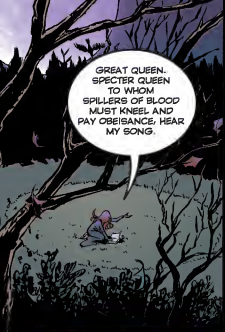












GREAT QUEEN.
SPECTER QUEEN
TO WHOM
SPILLERS OF BLOOD
MUST KNEEL AND
PAY OBEISANCE, HEAR
MY SONG.



I CALL
UPON THE
MOTHER EARTH
TO LOOSE YOU
FROM HER BOWELS
AND GUIDE ME IN
MY QUEST FOR
BLOOD.

SUPREME
GODDESS
OF WAR AND
FATE AND DEATH,
I CALL YOU INTO
BEING.



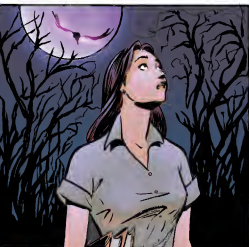
OH
MY
GOD!

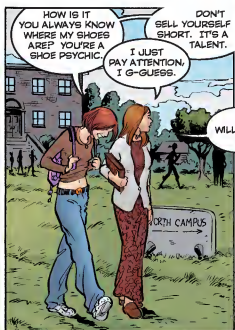


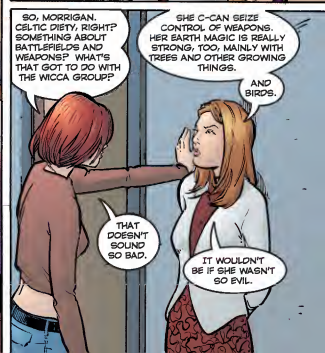
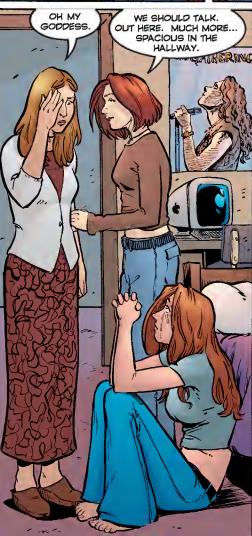
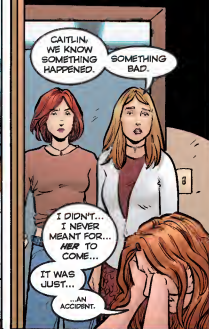
WHISPER
TOOOM!













I'M GUESSING THE SPELL CAITLIN USED TO CALL MORRIGAN BINDS HER TO PUNISH ANYONE CAITLIN PERCEIVES AS A THREAT.

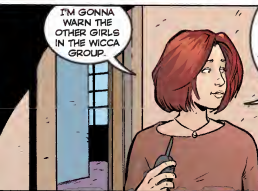


AND IF CAITLIN DIDN'T USE THE PROPER PROTECTION TO BIND HER FURTHER...MORRIGAN CAN CHOOSE THE PUNISHMENT HERSELF.

WHICH IS VERY, VERY BAD.



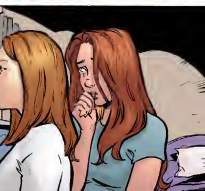
GILES ISN'T ANSWERING. BUFFY'S STILL IN L.A. WE'RE ON OUR OWN.



I'M GONNA WARN THE OTHER GIRLS IN THE WICCA GROUP.



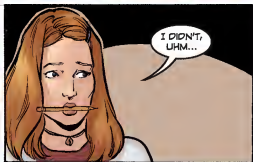
YOU DO THE RESEARCH THING, SEE IF YOU CAN COME UP WITH ANYTHING TO PUT THE GENIE BACK IN THE BOTTLE.

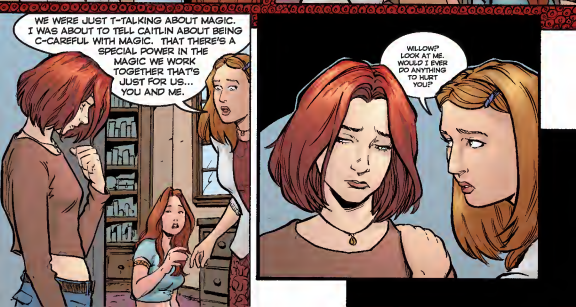
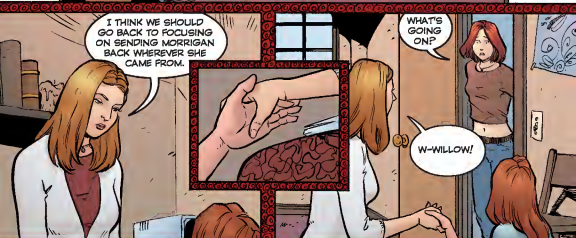
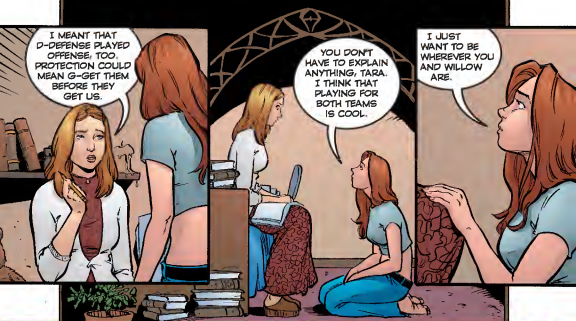


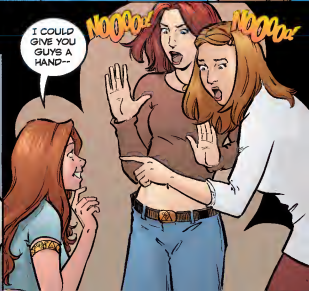
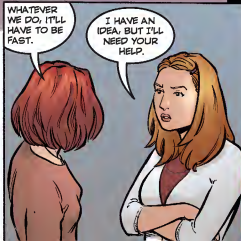
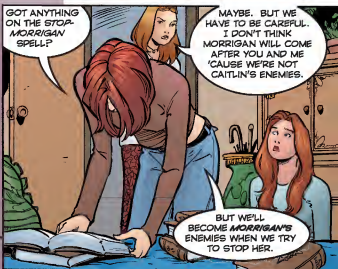
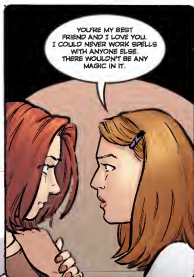
SHE'S V-VERY DANGEROUS. AND A SHAPE SHIFTER. B-BE CAREFUL.



I PROMISE I JUST HOPE I'M NOT...







"I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE. IF SOMETHING'S REALLY AFTER US, IS EVERYONE TOGETHER IN ONE ROOM A GOOD IDEA?"

I WAS GONNA LEAVE CAMPUS, BUT THEN CAITLIN CALLED. WE'RE ALL SUPPOSED TO HELPP I DON'T EVEN BELIEVE IN *REAL* WITCHCRAFT.

THAT'S BEEN YOUR PROBLEM ALL ALONG. ALL OF YOU.

HOW CAN YOU CALL YOURSELVES WICCANS IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN MAGIC? MAGIC IS ALL AROUND US.

LOOK, KELLY AND STACY AND DANA ARE ALL DEAD. IF YOU WANT TO STAY ALIVE, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BELIEVE. IT'S THAT SIMPLE.

FINE. YOU'VE GOT ONE HOUR. THEN I'M CALLING MY PARENTS TO COME GET ME.

WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS WHAT ARE *THEY* DOING HERE?

WE'RE TRYING TO SAVE YOUR LIVES.

SO, PAYING ATTENTION? PROBABLY A GOOD THING.

USP



ARE YOU
SURE THIS
IS GOING TO
WORK?

IT
WAS
YOUR
IDEA.

I HAVE
FAITH. BESIDES,
IT'S TOO LATE
NOW...



...SHE'S
HERE.





THE SPELL'S WORKING!

ALL OUR WILLS COMBINED ARE HOLDING THEM BACK. **FOCUS!**



IT'LL BE...OH. NO! HELP!

LOOKS LIKE MORRIGAN DECIDED YOU'RE YOUR OWN WORST ENEMY.



MALEVOLENTIA CARBONIS!

WILLOW! IS THIS REALLY GONNA WORK? CAN WE REALLY SEND HER BACK? THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.



"BELIEVE, CAITLIN. AND DON'T EVER FORGET ANY OF IT. YOU WILL SURVIVE THIS LESSON AND LEARN FROM IT"



WE'VE GOTTA HURRY. SHE'S TOO STRONG! WHY ISN'T SHE MANIFESTING YET?

UH... SHE IS.

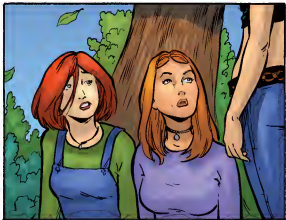
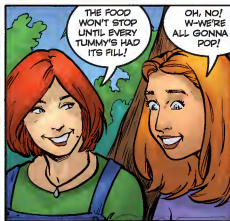


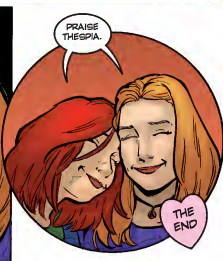
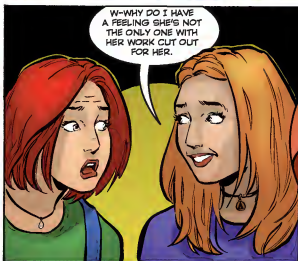
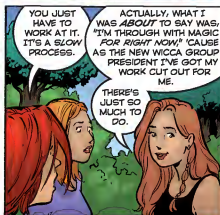
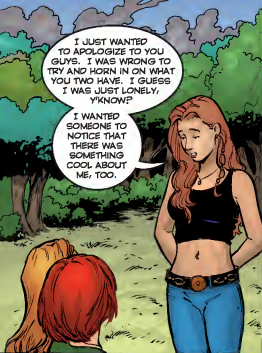
OH. BOY.

YEAH. PRETTY BIG.









DEMOLOGY
MENGIERIE

Part One



DEED
YGOZ03Z
M
E
N
A
G
E
R
-
I
E

Part Two



FALSE MEMORIES







The creatures of the night think they have it pretty good in Sunnydale.

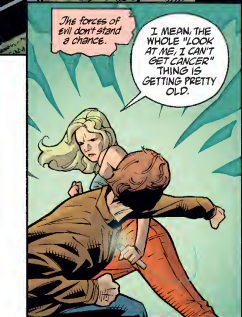


But they're mucho living in denial, because they've got big-time trouble.



The Slayer--unrelenting in her quest to fight evil, stalking her prey through the darkness...

WHAT IS IT WITH YOU VAMPIRES AND CIGARETTES?



The forces of evil don't stand a chance.

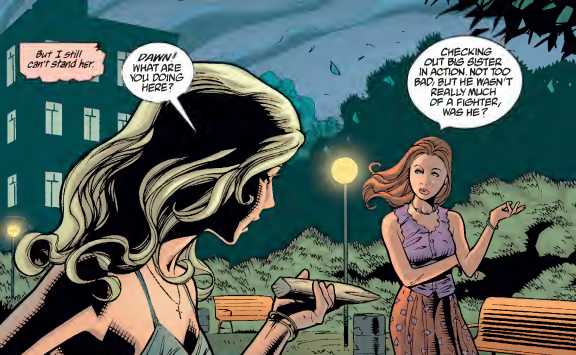
I MEAN, THE WHOLE "LOOK AT ME, I CAN'T GET CANCER" THING IS GETTING PRETTY OLD.



Yeah, she's the protector of the innocent, all right.



...HUH?



But I still
can't stand her.

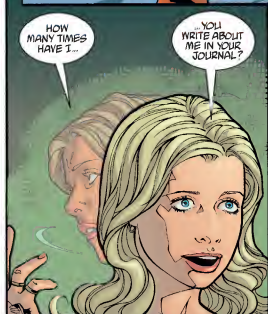
DAWN!
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?

CHECKING
OUT BIG SISTER
IN ACTION. NOT TOO
BAD! BUT HE WASN'T
REALLY MUCH
OF A FIGHTER,
WAS HE?



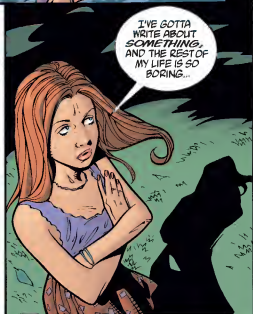
LOOK, I KNOW
YOU WANT TO
HELP, BUT YOU
JUST CAN'T
FOLLOW ME
AROUND!

PLEASE, I'M
NOT HERE TO
HELP. I'M
LOOKING FOR
MATERIAL
FOR MY
JOURNAL.



HOW
MANY TIMES
HAVE I...

...YOU
WRITE ABOUT
ME IN YOUR
JOURNAL?

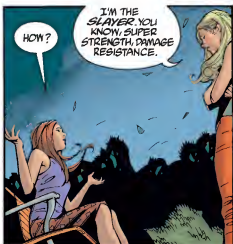


I'VE GOTTA
WRITE ABOUT
SOMETHING,
AND THE REST OF
MY LIFE IS SO
BORING...



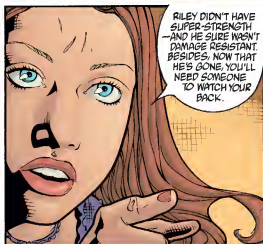
ANYWAY, WHY CAN'T I GO ON PATROL? I'M FOURTEEN. THAT'S HOW OLD YOU WERE WHEN YOU STARTED GOING OUT ON PATROL.

OH, IT'S SO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.



HOW?

I'M THE SLAYER. YOU KNOW, SUPER STRENGTH, DAMAGE RESISTANCE.



RILEY DIDN'T HAVE SUPER-STRENGTH—AND HE SURE WASN'T DAMAGE RESISTANT. BESIDES, NOW THAT HE'S GONE, YOU'LL NEED SOMEONE TO WATCH YOUR BACK.

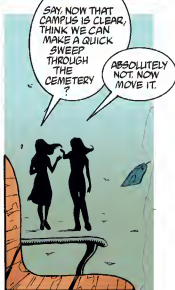


RILEY HAD MILITARY TRAINING. YOU DON'T, AND I DO NOT NEED SOMEONE TO WATCH MY BACK.

BUT RILEY ALWAYS TOLD ME HOW WORRIED HE GOT WHEN YOU WENT ON PATROL, AND NOW THAT HE'S GONE—



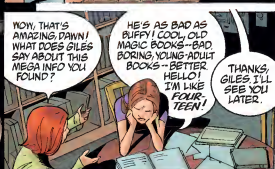
CAN WE *NOT* TALK ABOUT RILEY? COME ON, I'VE GOTTA GET YOU HOME BEFORE MOM FINDS OUT YOU'RE OUT HERE WANDERING AROUND. SHE'LL KILL ME.

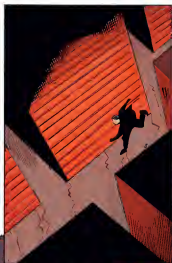


SAY, NOW THAT CAMPUS IS CLEAR, THINK WE CAN MAKE A QUICK SWEEP THROUGH THE CEMETERY?

ABSOLUTELY NOT. NOW MOVE IT.







**<NO! PLEASE!
ANYTHING! I'LL DO
ANYTHING!>**





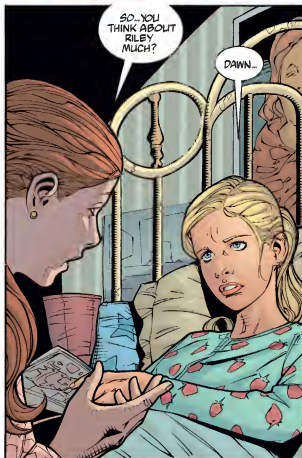
BUFFY?
ARE YOU
BUSY?

VERY BUSY.
OVERWHELMINGLY
BUSY. DON'T YOU
HAVE HOME-
WORK?



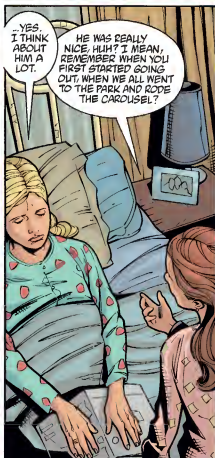
ALL DONE.
DON'T YOU HAVE
PATROL?

NOT
TONIGHT. IT'S
BEEN PRETTY
QUIET LATELY,
SO I THOUGHT
I'D CATCH UP
ON MY SLEEP.



SO... YOU
THINK ABOUT
RILEY
MUCH?

DAWN...



...YES.
I THINK
ABOUT
HIM A
LOT.

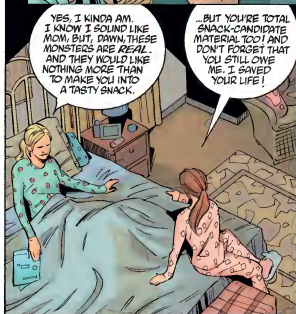
HE WAS REALLY
NICE, HUH? I MEAN,
REMEMBER WHEN YOU
FIRST STARTED GOING
OUT, WHEN WE ALL WENT
TO THE PARK AND RODE
THE CAROUSEL?



"NO... I
MEAN YES,
OF COURSE."

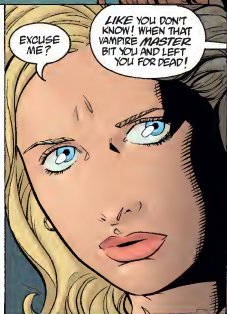


STILL
MAD AT ME FOR
SNEAKING OUT AND
FOLLOWING YOU
ON PATROL?



YES, I KINDA AM.
I KNOW I SOUND LIKE
MOM, BUT, DAWN, THESE
MONSTERS ARE REAL.
AND THEY WOULD LIKE
NOTHING MORE THAN
TO MAKE YOU INTO
A TASTY SNACK.

...BUT YOU'RE TOTAL
SNACK-CANDIDATE
MATERIAL TOO! AND
DON'T FORGET THAT
YOU STILL OWE
ME. I SAVED
YOUR LIFE!



EXCUSE
ME?

LIKE YOU DON'T
KNOW! WHEN THAT
VAMPIRE MASTER
BIT YOU AND LEFT
YOU FOR DEAD!



WELCOME.

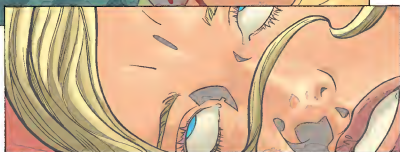
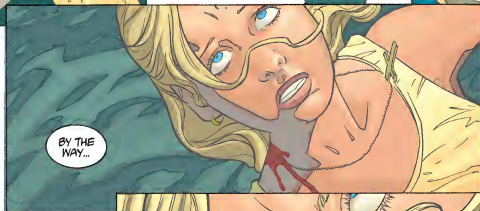


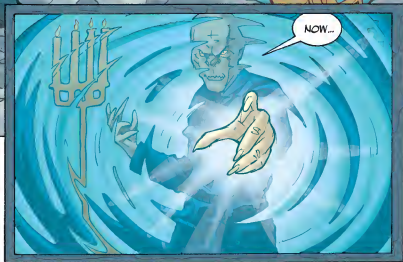
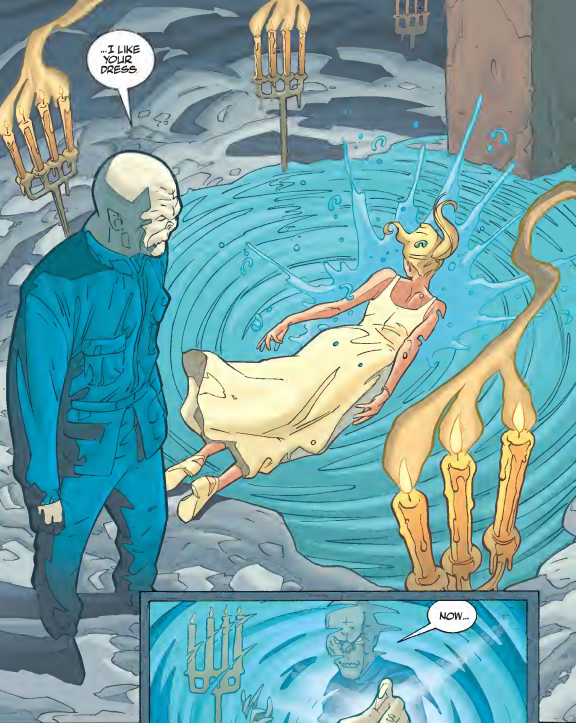
THANKS FOR HAVING ME. YOU REALLY OUGHT TO TALK TO YOUR CONTRACTOR. I THINK YOU'VE GOT SOME WATER DAMAGE.



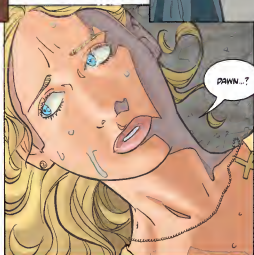
AH, GOOD. THE FEEBLE BANTER PORTION OF THE FIGHT. DARLING, WHY DON'T WE JUST CUT TO THE--

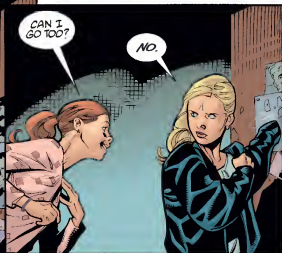
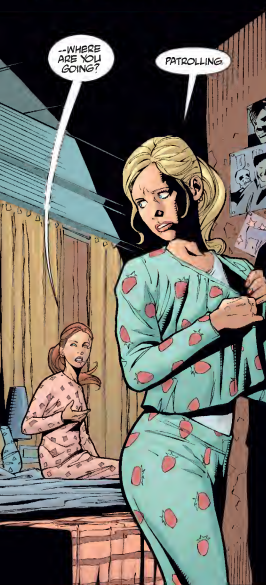
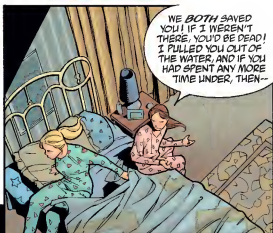
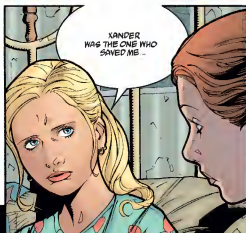


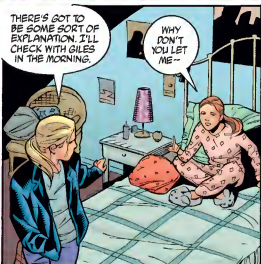
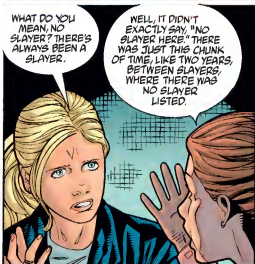
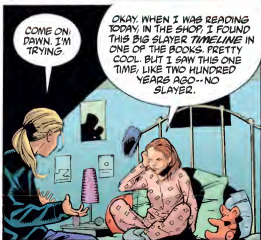












"NO."

HMPH.
MISSING SLAYER.
WHAT'S SHE TRYING
TO PULL?

HEY!

BUSTER, YOU
PICKED THE WRONG
NIGHT TO SNEAK UP
ON ME. YOU THINK
YOU'RE TROUBLE,
HUH? LET ME TELL
YOU ABOUT
TROUBLE.

MY LITTLE SISTER--
NOW THAT'S SOME
SERIOUS TROUBLE.
NEXT TO HER, DEALING
WITH VAMPIRES IS
TRÈS PIECE OF CAKE.
I MEAN, SHE
REALLY BUGS.

GOD, WHAT I
WOULDN'T GIVE
FOR A GOOD
FIGHT RIGHT
ABOUT NOW.





«THE HEAVENS
THEMSELVES
FILL HER
SPIRIT.»



«YES. AT LAST,
PREY WORTHY OF
ME. IS EVERY-
THING ELSE
PREPARED?»

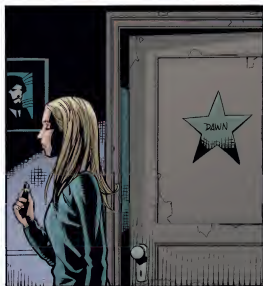
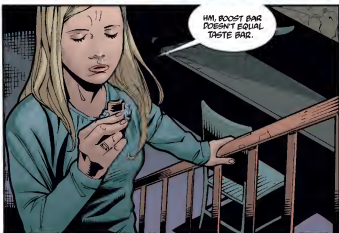
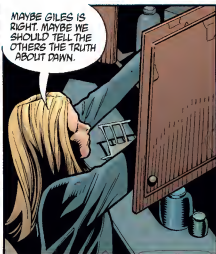
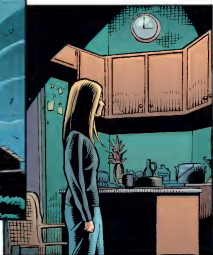


«VERY
NEARLY.»



«GOOD.
THEN
LEAVE
ME TO MY
HUNT.»









REMEMBER WHEN OL' SPIKE DIDN'T HAVE A BLOODY CHIP IN HIS HEAD? YOU AND ME, BUFFY, WED HAVE A RIGHT PROPER GO AT IT THEN.

WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO SPIKEY-POO?



THE BETTER HALF OF ME, MYSELF, AND I.



HOLY HELL, HARMONY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH THAT CONTRAPTION?

I'VE GOT A NEW PLAN TO END THE SLAYER ONCE AND FOR ALL.



AREN'T YOU GOING TO ASK ME WHAT THE PLAN IS?

OKAY, I'LL BITE. WHAT--PRAY TELL --IS YOUR MASTER PLAN TO OUTWIT THE SLAYER WITH A TWO-BIT BOOBY-TRAP REJECT FROM THE ACME CATALOG?



I'M NOT TELLING YOU! YOU'RE ALWAYS MEAN TO ME, AND YOU DON'T THINK I CAN EVER COME UP WITH A GOOD-ENOUGH PLAN ON MY OWN!

WELL, YOU CAN'T!



...WOMEN.





SORRY,
THOUGHT THE
DOOR WAS HEAVIER
THAN THAT. DIDN'T
SCARE YOU,
DID I?



HARDLY. WHAT IS IT
WITH YOU SUMMERS
GIRLS? CAN'T OPEN A
DOOR LIKE NORMAL
PEOPLE?



PEOPLE
GET AWFUL
COCKY WITH GOING
IN AND OUT OF
PLACES WHEN THEY
DON'T HAVE TO
BOTHR WITH
A FANCY
INVITE.

SO, YOU
JUST SAYING BY
TO KICK IN MY
DOOR OR YOU GOT
SOMETHING
KNOCKING
AROUND
THE OLD
NOGGIN?



MY SISTER IS
A RETARDO PAIN! SHE
DOESN'T REMEMBER
WHAT IT'S LIKE BEING
A TEENAGER--THAT'S
RIGHT, I'M FOUR-
TEEN!

I MEAN
SHE IS SO
DIFFICULT TO
DEAL!



...DON'T I
KNOW IT.



DID YOU EVER RUN AWAY FROM HOME WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG? OH, WAIT, VAMPIRE --NOT A GOOD HOME LIFE.

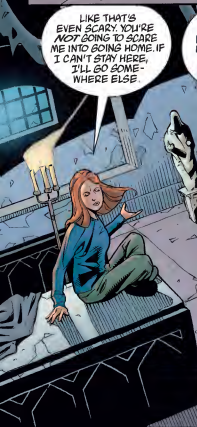
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW--AND I DON'T TELL THIS TO MANY FOLKS--I WASN'T ALWAYS THE NEIGHBORHOOD BIG BAD.



ME MUM USED TO TELL ME ALL ABOUT THE TROLLS WHO ONLY FEED ON LOST LITTLE TYKES GONE RUNNING FROM HOME...



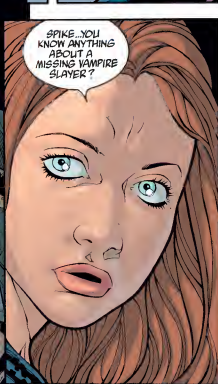
...AND HOW THEY'D TEAR OFF THE TOT'S TINY ARMS AND EAT OUT THE MARROW. THEN THEY'D STICK THE HOLLOW ARM BONE INTO THE KID'S BELLY LIKE A STRAW AND...*SLURP!*...SUCK OUT THE **Yummy GUTS!**



LIKE THAT'S EVEN SCARY. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SCARE ME INTO GOING HOME. IF I CAN'T STAY HERE, I'LL GO SOMEWHERE ELSE.



OKAY, SQUIRT. YOU CAN MAKE CAMP HERE. BIG SIS IS GONNA HAVE MY HIDE EITHER WAY. BETTER IT'S 'CAUSE I LET YOU STAY THAN LET YOU GO.

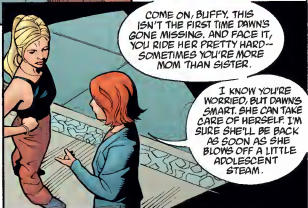


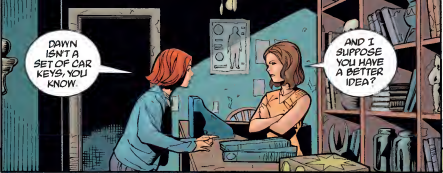
SPIKE...YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A MISSING VAMPIRE SLAYER?



YES, THAT IS GREATER CAUSE FOR ALARM. TELL ME AGAIN, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SAW HER?

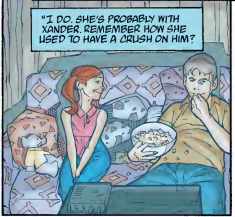
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO GO OVER IT? I WENT ON PATROL LAST NIGHT, AND WHEN I CAME BACK HOME--NO DAWN. HER BED WAS STILL MADE, EVEN.



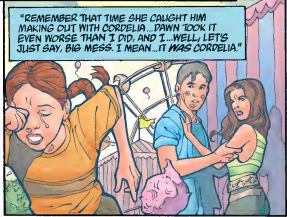


DAWN
ISN'T A
SET OF CAR
KEYS, YOU
KNOW.

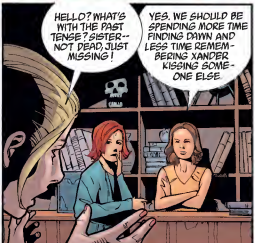
AND I
SUPPOSE
YOU HAVE
A BETTER
IDEA?



"I DO. SHE'S PROBABLY WITH
XANDER. REMEMBER HOW SHE
USED TO HAVE A CRUSH ON HIM?



"REMEMBER THAT TIME SHE CAUGHT HIM
MAKING OUT WITH CORDELIA...DAWN TOOK IT
EVEN WORSE THAN I DID, AND I...WELL, LET'S
JUST SAY, BIG MESS. I MEAN...IT WAS CORDELIA."



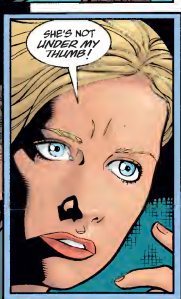
HELLO? WHAT'S
WITH THE PAST
TENSE? SISTER--
NOT DEAD, JUST
MISSING!

YES, WE SHOULD BE
SPENDING MORE TIME
FINDING DAWN AND
LESS TIME REMEM-
BERING XANDER
KISSING SOME-
ONE ELSE.



BOY!
DO I HAVE
THE WORST
NEWS...

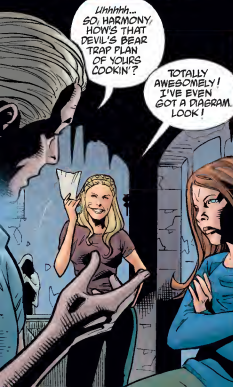
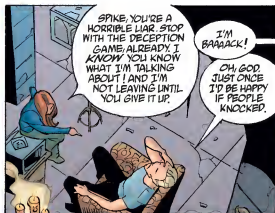












SNAP!

THIS IS RIDICULOUS WHO WOULD BE STUPID ENOUGH TO THINK THIS WOULD WORK?

ASK A SILLY QUESTION...

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

WHAT? THAT YOU'RE A PUSH-OVER?

NO, THAT THAT LITTLE TWERP SISTER OF YOURS KNEW YOU WOULDN'T FALL FOR MY TRAP.

DAWN?!!

WHERE IS SHE?

SPIKE!

SHE'S WITH SPIKE!

HEY! I'M NOT LETTING YOU GET AWAY WITH THAT!



<TO HUNT IS TO LIVE. YET YUKI MAKIMURA DOES NOT GO AFTER THE SLAYER?>

<A SEARCH IS ALSO A HUNT. AS IS REMEMBERING. YOUR PEOPLE TAUGHT ME THAT.>



<MY PEOPLE ARE EAGER FOR HIS RETURN.>

<I HAVE GOOD NEWS, THEN. AS PROMISED, I'VE COMPLETED THE ALTAR. THE REST IS UP TO YOU, SHIDEN. HAVE YOU FOUND THE EIDH AMULET?>



<WE HAVE. IT'S BEING HELD BY A VAMPIRE. WILLIAM THE BLOODY.>



<SPIKE... I WONDER...>

<YOU KNOW HIM?>



<NO, BUT I'VE HEARD STORIES. THE LEGENDS SAY HE'S KILLED TWO SLAYERS.>

<EVEN MORE LEGENDARY IS HIS GREED. WE MAY BE ABLE TO USE THIS ONE.>

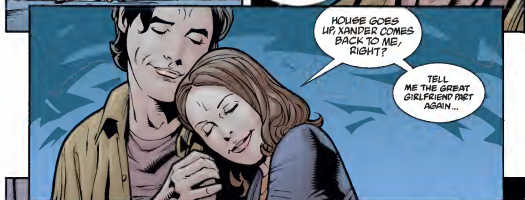


A RESPECTABLE JOB,
MY OWN APARTMENT, A
GREAT GIRLFRIEND--THESE
THINGS ARE COOL, BUT
WORKING NIGHTS
MIGHT TIP THE
WHOLE COOL
SCALE WAY
BACK TO UNCOOL.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE YOU
HAVE TO GO THE
WORKING DAY
IS OVER!



YEAH, BUT
THIS NEW
CLIENT IS A REAL
PUSHY NUMBER.
SHE BOUGHT THIS
PROPERTY NEAR THE
OLD HIGH SCHOOL
AND SHE WANTS
THE BUILDING UP
YESTERDAY!



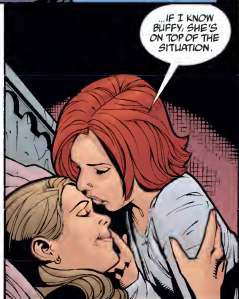
HOUSE GOES
UP, XANDER COMES
BACK TO ME,
RIGHT?

TELL
ME THE GREAT
GIRLFRIEND PART
AGAIN...

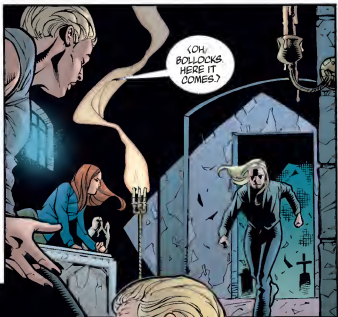


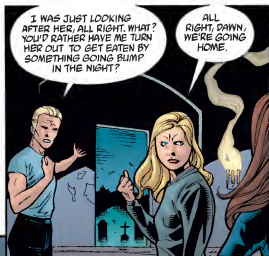
I KNOW
EVERYONE'S
WORRIED ABOUT
DAWN. BUT SHE'S
GOING TO BE
FINE. SHE'S A
SURVIVOR.

I GUESS,
DEEP DOWN, I
BELIEVE THAT. I JUST
CAN'T HELP WORRY-
ING ABOUT HER. BUT
SHE IS BUFFY'S LITTLE
SISTER, AND...



...IF I KNOW
BUFFY, SHE'S
ON TOP OF THE
SITUATION.





I WAS JUST LOOKING AFTER HER, ALL RIGHT. WHAT? YOU'D RATHER HAVE ME TURN HER OUT TO GET EATEN BY SOMETHING GOING BUMP IN THE NIGHT?

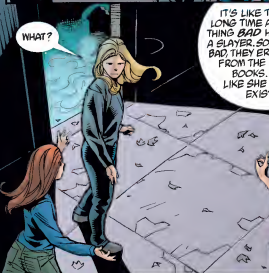
ALL RIGHT, DAWN, WE'RE GOING HOME.



BUT SPIKE WAS TELLING ME ALL ABOUT THE MISSING SLAYER.

REALITY TO DAWN--THERE IS NO MISSING SLAYER.

HOLD ON THERE, TOUGH GIRL-- AND I SAY THIS AT THE RISK OF LOSING A FEW TEETH--I HAVE TO DISAGREE WITH YOU.



WHAT?

IT'S LIKE THIS-- A LONG TIME AGO, SOMETHING *BAD* HAPPENED TO A SLAYER. SOMETHING SO BAD, THEY ERASED HER FROM THE HISTORY BOOKS. POOF. LIKE SHE NEVER EXISTED.

BUT THE BLOKES WHO KEEP THE RECORDS WEREN'T QUITE BRIGHT ENOUGH TO MOVE THE DATES AROUND.

SO TO ANYONE WHO'S PAYING ATTENTION, THERE'S A HOLE IN HISTORY, A PERIOD OF TIME WHEN IT *SEEMS* THERE WAS NO SLAYER.



YES! I KNEW I WAS RIGHT!

I'M STILL NOT BUYING IT. YOU TWO COOKED THIS UP.



WHATEVER, SLAYER. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE ME, THAT'S YOUR BUSINESS.

ALL RIGHT, LET'S ASSUME IT'S TRUE. THEN WHY DOESN'T GILES KNOW ABOUT IT?



OH,
HE KNOWS
ABOUT IT, RIGHT
ENOUGH. HE'S
JUST NOT TALKING
ABOUT IT. YOU
SEE, THE WATCHERS
ARE RESPONSIBLE
FOR COVERING
IT UP.



HE WOULDN'T
LIE TO ME.
BESIDES, HE'S
NOT A WATCHER
ANYMORE.

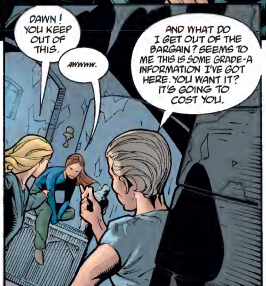
SO YOU
SAY, BUT IN MY
EXPERIENCE,
ONCE A WATCHER,
ALWAYS A
WATCHER.

THE OTHER
KIDS MIGHT NOT
WANT HIM IN THE
CLUBHOUSE ANY-
MORE, BUT HE
STILL LIVES BY
THEIR RULES
--WHETHER
HE LIKES IT
OR NOT.



LET'S TAKE A STEP
BACK HERE...WHAT'S
THIS THING THAT'S SO
BAD THAT NO ONE WILL
TALK ABOUT IT?

YEAH!
TELL
US!



DAWN!
YOU KEEP
OUT OF
THIS.

ANYWAY.

AND WHAT DO
I GET OUT OF THE
BARGAIN? SEEMS TO
ME THIS IS SOME GRADE-A
INFORMATION I'VE GOT
HERE. YOU WANT IT?
IT'S GOING TO
COST YOU.



FINE.
COME ON,
DAWN, WE'RE
GOING
HOME.

WE'LL PLAY
YOUR GAME FOR
NOW, SPIKE, BUT
WE'RE NOT
FINISHED.

NOW
THAT'S
SOMETHING
YOU CAN
COUNT
ON.



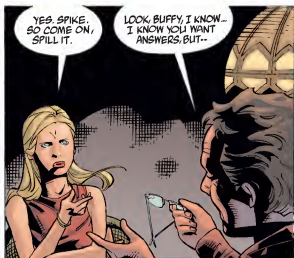
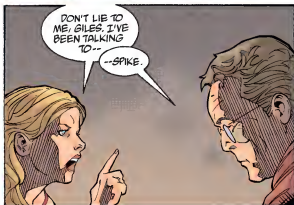
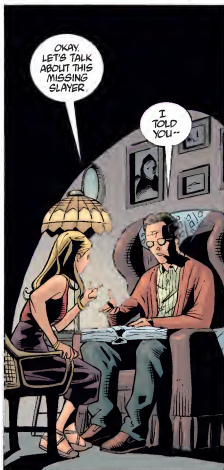


DOES
DID
I FORGET
TO SAY
"CATCH"?

THE AMULET...
YESSSS...

FOTO
OCT
YET

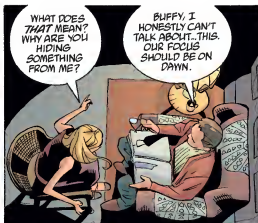
FASH





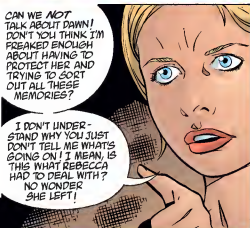
PLEASE. DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A KID. I'M THE CHOSEN ONE, REMEMBER?

YES, BUT, WELL, THIS IS SOMETHING THAT TRANSCENDS EVEN OUR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP. THIS IS... COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.



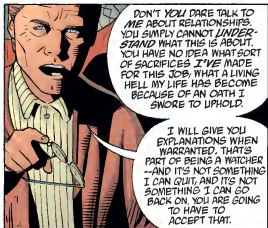
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? WHY ARE YOU HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME?

BUFFY, I HONESTLY CAN'T TALK ABOUT... THIS. OUR FOCUS SHOULD BE ON DAWN.



CAN WE NOT TALK ABOUT DAWN! DON'T YOU THINK I'M FREAKED ENOUGH ABOUT HAVING TO PROTECT HER AND TRYING TO SORT OUT ALL THESE MEMORIES?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU JUST DON'T TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON! I MEAN, IS THIS WHAT REBECCA HAD TO DEAL WITH? NO WONDER SHE LEFT!



DON'T YOU DARE TALK TO ME ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS. YOU SIMPLY CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS IS ABOUT. YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT SORT OF SACRIFICES I'VE MADE FOR THIS JOB. WHAT A LIVING HELL MY LIFE HAS BECOME BECAUSE OF AN OATH I SNUORE TO UPHOLD.

I WILL GIVE YOU EXPLANATIONS WHEN WARRANTED. THAT'S PART OF BEING A WATCHER --AND IT'S NOT SOMETHING I CAN QUIT, AND IT'S NOT SOMETHING I CAN GO BACK ON. YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT.



OH... MY... GOD.





«EXCELLENT.
TRULY EXCELLENT.
WE'RE ALMOST READY
TO BEGIN.»

«THEN YOU
HAVE FOUND A
SUITABLE VESSEL
TO COMPLETE THE
TRANSITION?»

«YES, IT WILL
BE HARVESTED
TOMORROW... THEN
THE REIGN OF
DESTRUCTION SHALL
BEGIN ANEW.»



O-KAY...
I HAVE THAT
BAD-FEELING
ABOUT
THIS.

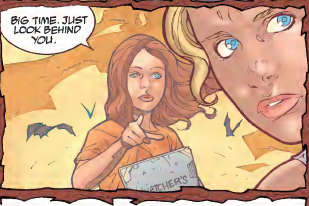


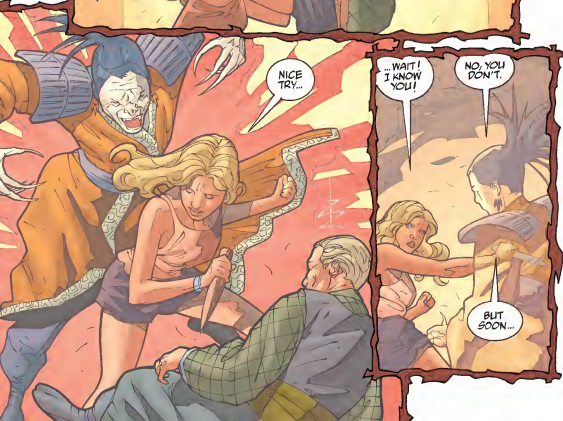
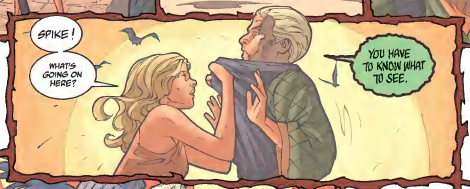
IT'S ABOUT TIME
YOU'VE COME
AROUND ON THIS.
THERE'S GOING
TO BE TROUBLE,
YOU KNOW.



TROUBLE?

BIG TIME. JUST
LOOK BEHIND
YOU.







OH!



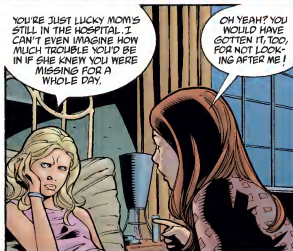
DAWN...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I HEARD VOICES... I WANTED TO SEE IF YOU'RE OKAY.



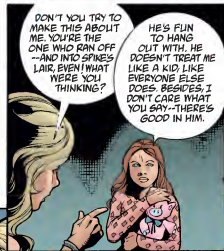
AND YOU CAME IN TO CHECK ON ME? I DON'T THINK SO. WHAT'S THE REAL DEAL?

UM... WELL... I KNOW YOU'RE STILL MAD AT ME FOR RUNNING AWAY..



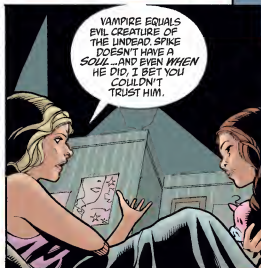
YOU'RE JUST LUCKY MOM'S STILL IN THE HOSPITAL. I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE HOW MUCH TROUBLE YOU'D BE IN IF SHE KNEW YOU WERE MISSING FOR A WHOLE DAY.

OH YEAH? YOU WOULD HAVE GOTTEN IT, TOO, FOR NOT LOOKING AFTER ME!



DON'T YOU TRY TO MAKE THIS ABOUT ME. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO RAN OFF --AND INTO SPIKE'S LAIR, EVEN! WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?

HE'S FUN TO HANG OUT WITH. HE DOESN'T TREAT ME LIKE A KID, LIKE EVERYONE ELSE DOES. BESIDES, I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SAY--THERE'S GOOD IN HIM.



VAMPIRE EQUALS EVIL CREATURE OF THE UNDEAD. SPIKE DOESN'T HAVE A SOUL...AND EVEN WHEN HE DID, I BET YOU COULDN'T TRUST HIM.



AND WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I WON'T DOUBLE-CROSS YOU?



YOU'RE UNRELIABLE, YES...A LOOSE CANNON, BUT WILLIAM, WE ARE ON THE SAME TEAM.

SO OUT OF TEAM SPIRIT YOU HAD YOUR BOYS BUST IN HERE, SMASH UP MY TELLY, AND SWIPE MY ASHTRAY. CARE TO EXPLAIN HOW THAT'S ALL-FOR-ONE?



PERHAPS WE ACTED RASHLY.

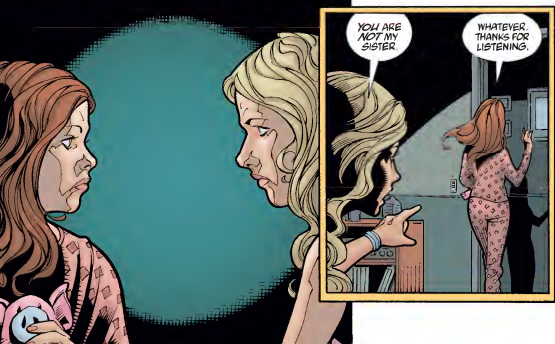
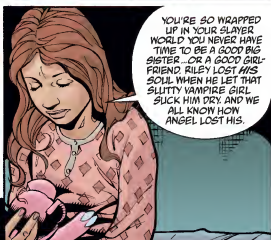
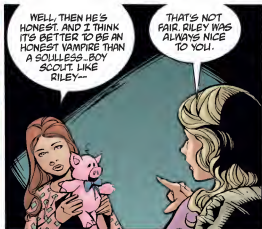
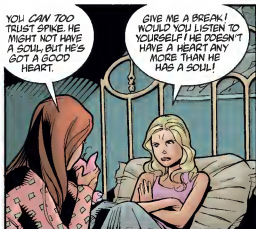


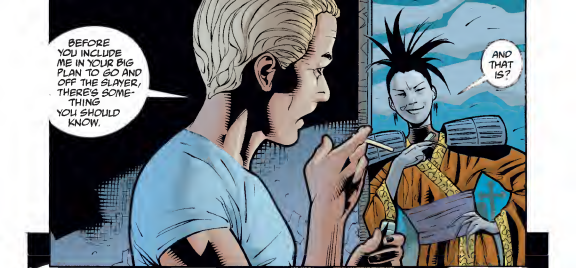
SO NOW YOU'RE PAYING ME OFF TO HELP YOU KILL THE SLAYER?

YOU'VE GOT ME ALL WRONG, WILLIAM. I DON'T WANT HER DEAD...



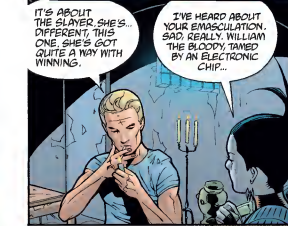
...BUT I KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES.





BEFORE YOU INCLUDE ME IN YOUR BIG PLAN TO GO AND OFF THE SLAYER, THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW.

AND THAT IS?



IT'S ABOUT THE SLAYER. SHE'S... DIFFERENT, THIS ONE. SHE'S GOT QUITE A WAY WITH WINNING.

I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOUR EMASCULATION. SAD, REALLY. WILLIAM THE BLOODY, TAMED BY AN ELECTRONIC CHIP...



LISTEN, I'M NO NEWBIE VAMP FRESH OUT OF THE EARTH. I'VE BEEN AROUND THE BLOCK A FEW TIMES, AND I'VE RUN ACROSS MORE THAN MY FAIR SHARE OF SLAYERS. EVEN KILLED A FEW IN MY TIME.



OH, I KNOW YOU HAVE, WILLIAM. BUT YOU FORGET...



SO HAVE I.

NO NEED TO GET HOSTILE. JUST THOUGHT I'D GIVE FAIR WARNING.

I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, SO, DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE IN? OR SHALL I PUT THIS DIRTY MONEY AWAY?

IF IT MEANS GETTING RID OF THE SLAYER, I'M IN. WHAT DO YOU NEED ME TO DO?

I NEED YOU TO GET THE SLAYER TO THE OLD HIGH SCHOOL TOMORROW NIGHT.

LOOK, IT'LL BE A LOT EASIER TO GET HER THERE YOURSELF. SEE, SHE'S NOT IN THE HABIT OF CHASING ME AROUND, CONSIDERING I'M HARMLESS AND ALL, AND SHE DOESN'T EXACTLY TRUST ME.

FIGURE SOMETHING OUT. I NEED TIME TO PREPARE THE CEREMONY AND COLLECT THE SACRIFICES SO WE'RE READY FOR HER ARRIVAL.

SACRIFICE, eh? WHO'S THE LUCKY WINNER?

THAT'S A LITTLE SURPRISE. YOU JUST WORRY ABOUT DOING YOUR PART.

DON'T WORRY, I'LL GET HER THERE. BUT YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING TO GET HER ATTENTION, FIRST.

BLOODY KOOK.



OH GOODY! YOU'RE
FINALLY
HOME!
MAY-
BE WE
CAN--

AS YUMMY
AS YOU LOOK--

--AND LET
ME TAKE A
SECOND
HERE TO SAY
"YUMMY"--

--I'M
BUSHED. ALL
I CAN THINK
ABOUT RIGHT
NOW IS
GETTING
SOME SHUT-
EYE.



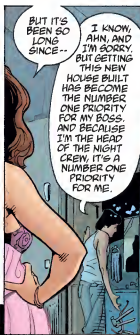
OH, YEAH. SHE
WAS HANGING OUT
WITH SPIKE! CAN YOU
BELIEVE IT?

SO... MAY-
BE A LITTLE
KISSING?



BUT IT'S
BEEN SO
LONG
SINCE--

I KNOW,
AHN, AND
I'M SORRY,
BUT GETTING
THIS NEW
HOUSE BUILT
HAS BECOME
THE NUMBER
ONE PRIORITY
FOR MY BOSS.
AND BECAUSE
I'M THE HEAD
OF THE NIGHT
CREW, IT'S A
NUMBER ONE
PRIORITY
FOR ME.



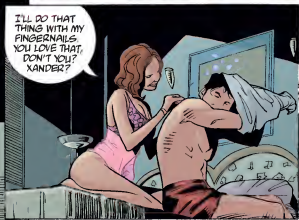
**WORK
SUCKS!**

WORK GIVES
XANDER
MONEY.
XANDER
BUYS NICE
THINGS FOR
ANYA WITH
MONEY.

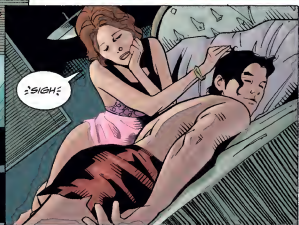
HEY, DID
YOU GUYS FIND
DAWN?

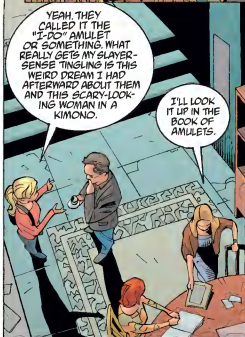
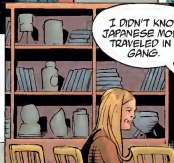


I'LL DO THAT
THING WITH MY
FINGERNAILS
YOU LOVE THAT,
DON'T YOU?
XANDER?



SIGH







WHAT?

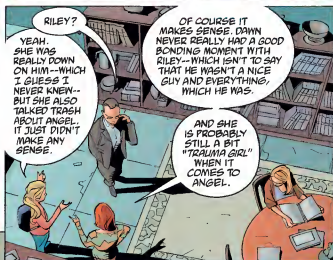


I MEAN...
NOT
REALLY.

LET'S TAKE A
LOOK AND SEE WHAT
WE HAVE. BUT FIRST, WAS
THERE ANYTHING ELSE
IN YOUR DREAM THAT
MIGHT TELL US MORE
OF WHAT WE'RE
DEALING WITH?



I DON'T THINK
SO. RIGHT AFTER
I WOKE UP, DAWN
WAS THERE,
HARSHING ON
MY TASTE IN
BOYFRIENDS.



RILEY?

YEAH.
SHE WAS
REALLY DOWN
ON HIM--WHICH
I GUESS I
NEVER KNEW--
BUT SHE ALSO
TALKED TRASH
ABOUT ANGEL.
IT JUST DIDN'T
MAKE ANY
SENSE.

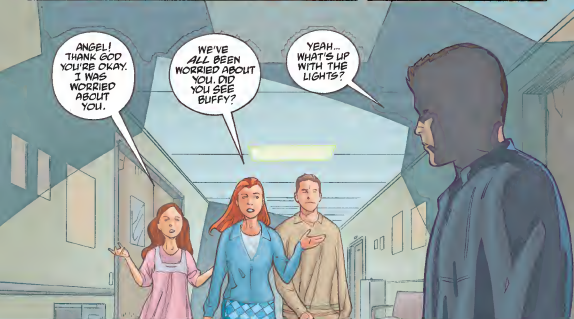
OF COURSE IT
MAKES SENSE. DAWN
NEVER REALLY HAD A GOOD
BONDING MOMENT WITH
RILEY--WHICH ISN'T TO SAY
THAT HE WASN'T A NICE
GUY AND EVERYTHING,
WHICH HE WAS.

AND SHE
IS PROBABLY
STILL A BIT
"TRAUMA GIRL"
WHEN IT
COMES TO
ANGEL.



WHAT?
ANGEL
TRAUMATIZED
SOME-
ONE?

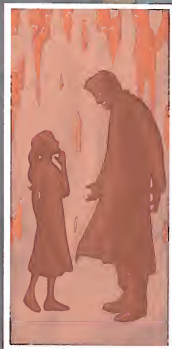
BUFFY, YOU REMEMBER
THAT TIME WHEN
ANGEL ALMOST
KILLED HER
BECAUSE HE
WENT BAD
AFTER...WELL,
YOU KNOW WHY
HE WENT
BAD.

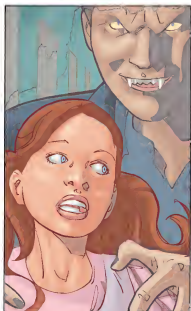
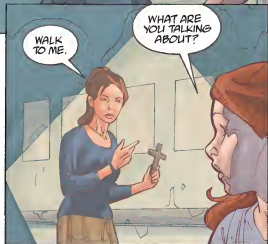
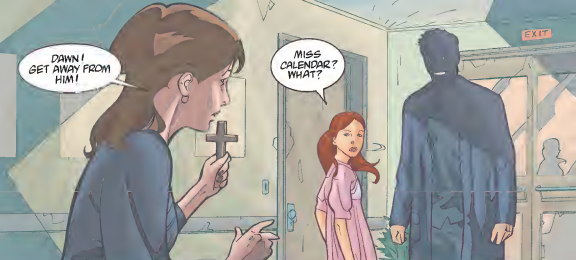


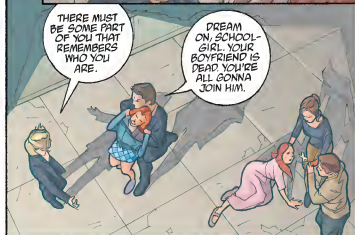
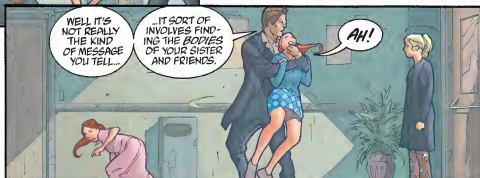
ANGEL!
THANK GOD
YOU'RE OKAY.
I WAS
WORRIED
ABOUT
YOU.

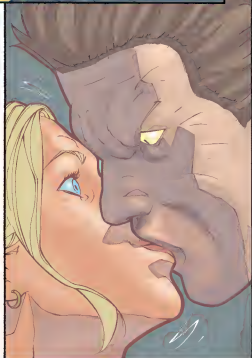
WE'VE
ALL BEEN
WORRIED ABOUT
YOU. DID
YOU SEE
BUFFY?

YEAH...
WHAT'S UP
WITH THE
LIGHTS?

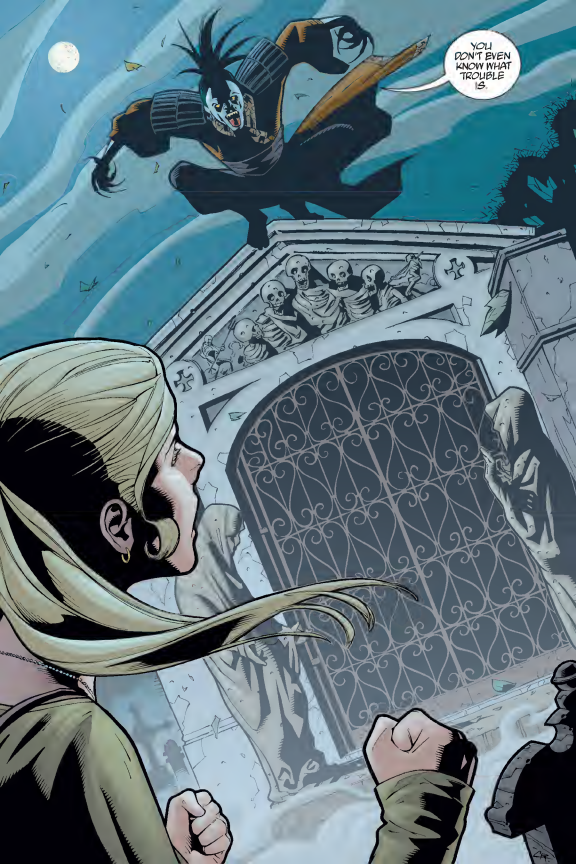




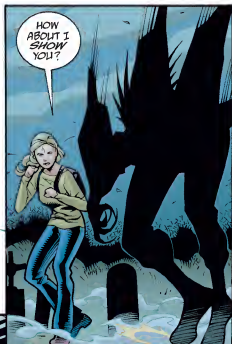








YOU
DON'T EVEN
KNOW WHAT
TROUBLE
IS.



HOW ABOUT I SHOW YOU?



WAIT... I REMEMBER YOU.



YES, YOU DO. DO YOU REMEMBER WHY?

WHY WOULD I BE IN YOUR DREAMS, LITTLE SLAYER? AREN'T YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING... OR SOMEONE?



I GET IT. IT WAS YOU. YOU KILLED THE MISSING SLAYER, THE ONE WHO'S BEEN ERASED FROM HISTORY.

YES, BUT NOT LIKE YOU THINK YOU SEE...





THINGS ARE GOING TO GET VERY INTERESTING



YEP, NOW THAT BAD FEELING IS REALLY BAD.

I HOPE I'M NOT TOO LATE. I...



GILES! YOU KNEW, DIDN'T YOU? YOU KNEW ABOUT HER AND YOU LIED!



I KNOW... I KNOW IT SEEMS LIKE I'VE BEEN SOMEWHAT DECEPTIVE--

WRONG.
NO "SEEMS LIKE."
JUST PLAIN "DECEPTIVE."

FORGET THAT I COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED--AND TRY TO FORGET THAT THIS GIRL SICKO MAY KILL LOTS OF OTHER PEOPLE BEFORE I STOP HER--WHAT REALLY GETS ME IS THAT I THOUGHT YOU AND I WERE FRIENDS.



I TRY SO HARD, BUFFY... TO PROTECT YOU, TO GUIDE YOU...AND TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO THE ETHICS OF THE COUNCIL.



YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU KEPT THIS FROM ME BECAUSE OF THE COUNCIL? NOW YOU'RE REALLY ACTING LIKE THE BAD GUY.

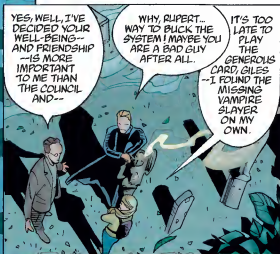


I RESENT THAT!





GILES,
YOU DID THIS
SONG AND
DANCE
YESTER-
DAY.



YES, WELL, I'VE
DECIDED YOUR
WELL-BEING--
AND FRIENDSHIP
--IS MORE
IMPORTANT
TO ME THAN
THE COUNCIL
AND--

WHY, RUPERT...
WAY TO BUCK THE
SYSTEM! MAYBE YOU
ARE A BAD GUY
AFTER ALL.

IT'S TOO
LATE TO
PLAY
THE
GENEROUS
CARD, GILES
--I FOUND THE
MISSING
VAMPIRE
SLAYER
ON MY
OWN.



WELL, I
WOULDN'T SAY
YOU FOUND HER.
MORE LIKE SHE
PUT YOU THROUGH
A LITTLE TEST
AND--

SHUT UP,
SPIKE!

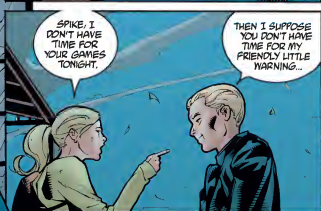


YES, SPIKE, PLEASE
SHUT UP. ANYWAY,
YOU'RE WRONG. THE
MISSING SLAYER--
YUKI MAKIMURA--IS
NOT IN SUNNYDALE
TO "TEST"
BUFFY...



...THE EIDU
AMULET. I FOUND
OUT WHAT SHE
WANTS IT FOR...







COOL DOWN, SPARKY. MAYBE "WARNING" WASN'T THE BEST CHOICE OF WORDS. INSIDER INFO IS WHAT IT IS. YOU WANT IT OR NOT?

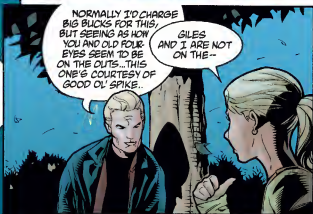
ALL RIGHT. GIVE IT.



WARNING? ABOUT THE UNHINGED SLAYER-TURNED VAMPIRE? OR ABOUT HOW SHE'S HERE IN SUNNYDALE TO RESURRECT THE MASTER, THE MOST EVIL VAMPIRE IN ALL OF VAMPIREDOM?

NORMALLY I'D CHARGE BIG BUCKS FOR THIS, BUT SEEING AS HOW YOU AND OLD FOUR-EYES SEEM TO BE ON THE OUTS...THIS ONE'S COURTESY OF GOOD OL' SPIKE..

GILES AND I ARE NOT ON THE--



RIGHT, RIGHT. OKAY, HERE IT IS--SHE'S HOLED UP AT YOUR OLD SCHOOL WITH HER GANG OF MONKS, PREPARING FOR THE CEREMONY THAT'S SUPPOSED TO GO OFF AT MIDNIGHT.



WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE YOU?

HOW CAN YOU EVEN ASK THAT?







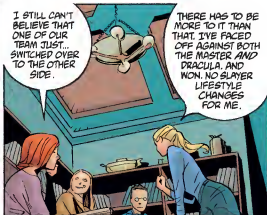




WELL, AS WE MIGHT HAVE SUSPECTED, AGES AGO WHEN YUKI WAS A VAMPIRE SLAYER, SHE WENT UP AGAINST THE MASTER. HE WAS SOMEHOW ABLE TO GET TO HER MIND. IT WAS HE THAT TURNED HER.



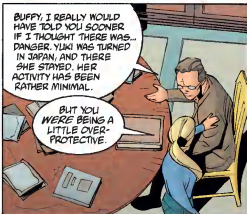
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THAT ONE OF OUR TEAM JUST... SWITCHED OVER TO THE OTHER SIDE.



THERE HAS TO BE MORE TO IT THAN THAT. I'VE FACED OFF AGAINST BOTH THE MASTER AND DRACULA, AND WON. NO SLAYER LIFESTYLE CHANGES FOR ME.

BUFFY, I REALLY WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU SOONER IF I THOUGHT THERE WAS... DANGER. YUKI WAS TURNED IN JAPAN, AND THERE SHE STAYED. HER ACTIVITY HAS BEEN RATHER MINIMAL.

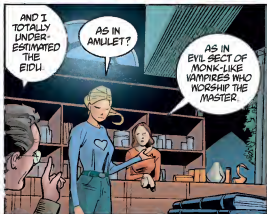
BUT YOU WERE BEING A LITTLE OVER-PROTECTIVE.



AND I TOTALLY UNDER-ESTIMATED THE EIDU.

AS IN AMULET?

AS IN EVIL SECT OF MONK-LIKE VAMPIRES WHO WORSHIP THE MASTER.



THEIR PERVERSION OF RELIGION IS ONLY EXCEEDED BY THEIR PERVERSION OF THEIR OWN SELVES. THEY BELIEVE THE MASTER HAS GIVEN THEM THE LEGACY OF SECOND SIGHT.



TO BECOME EIDU, YOUNG ACOLYTES, STILL HUMAN, ARE BROUGHT TO THE MONKS AND TORTURED. THEY ARE MADE TO BEG FOR THE BLOOD OF EVERLASTING LIFE.



THE FINAL IGNOMINY IS THAT ONCE THEY HAVE BEGGED FOR LIFE IN DEATH, THEY MUST BURN THEIR OWN EYES OUT. ONLY THEN ARE THEY BITTEN AND TURNED.



WHA?

DON'T WORRY, SWEET BOY. YOUR PRECIOUS SLAYER WILL COME, THOUGH SHE CAN'T SAVE YOU.

(WHY DO YOU CONTINUE TO PLAY GAMES? TO HUNT IS TO LIVE, YUKI. YOU HUNT THE SLAYER DOWN, YET YOU SPARE HER LIFE.)

THE CEREMONY HAS YOU ON EDGE, SHIDEN. THE HUNT IS NOT ABOUT THE KILL.

THAT'S FUNNY. YOU CAN BE SURE BUFFY'S HUNT IS ALL ABOUT KILLING YOU.

BUFFY IS NOT THE HUNTER. SHE IS THE LAMB. MY GREATEST CHALLENGE WILL BECOME MY GREATEST VICTORY.

AND MY MASTER WILL BE HERE TO WITNESS ME SLAY THE HUMAN THAT SLAYED HIM.

(THE SLAYER IS NOT IMPORTANT TO THIS! RAISING THE MASTER IS THE PRIME GOAL. WE CAN'T EVEN BE CERTAIN SHE'LL BE HERE--)

NOW MY JAPANESE ISN'T ALL THAT GOOD...



BUT I'M GUESSING THAT FANCY-PANTS HERE'S WORRIED ABOUT THE SLAYER'S ARRIVAL. DON'T WORRY, SHE'LL BE HERE, AND IN TIME, I SAW TO THAT.



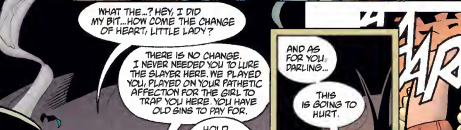
SHOWS WHAT YOU KNOW, BOY SCOUT, AND A BIT OF ADVICE--YOU MIGHT WANT TO BE MORE WORRIED ABOUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU INSTEAD OF YOUR PRECIOUS BUFFY.

SPIKE! YOU---! BUFFY ISN'T GOING TO FALL FOR THIS.



ACTUALLY, WILLIAM, YOU MIGHT WANT TO BE MORE WORRIED ABOUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU, RATHER THAN WHAT IS INEVITABLY GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOUR NEW GOODY-GOODY FRIENDS.

GRAB HIM.



WHAT THE...? HEY, I DID MY BIT...HOW COME THE CHANGE OF HEART, LITTLE LADY?

THERE IS NO CHANGE. I NEVER NEEDED YOU TO LURE THE SLAYER HERE. WE PLAYED YOU, PLAYED ON YOUR PATHETIC AFFECTION FOR THE GIRL TO TRAP YOU HERE. YOU HAVE OLD SINS TO PAY FOR.

HOLD HIM UNTIL THE MASTER ARRIVES. HE WILL WANT TO PERSONALLY DEAL WITH THE VAMPIRE WHO KILLED THE ANOINTED ONE.



AND AS FOR YOU, DARLING...

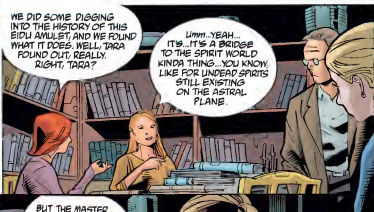
THIS IS GOING TO HURT.





WE DID SOME DIGGING INTO THE HISTORY OF THIS EIDU AMULET, AND WE FOUND WHAT IT DOES. WELL, TARA FOUND OUT, REALLY. RIGHT, TARA?

UHHH...YEAH... IT'S...IT'S A BRIDGE TO THE SPIRIT WORLD KINDA THING...YOU KNOW, LIKE FOR UNDEAD SPIRITS STILL EXISTING ON THE ASTRAL PLANE.



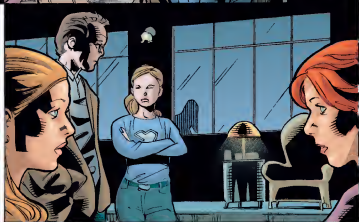
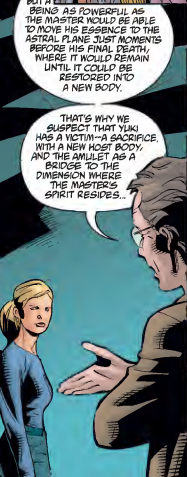
REMEMBER THE ORB OF THE SULAH THAT WE USED TO RESTORE ANGEL'S SOUL? IT'S A LOT LIKE THAT.

BUT THE MASTER IS DEAD. I MEAN REALLY DEAD. I-GROUND-HIS-BONES-INTO-POWDER KIND OF DEAD.



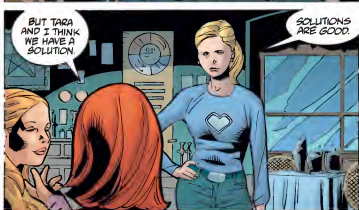
YES, BUT A BEING AS POWERFUL AS THE MASTER WOULD BE ABLE TO MOVE HIS ESSENCE TO THE ASTRAL PLANE JUST MOMENTS BEFORE HIS FINAL DEATH, WHERE IT WOULD REMAIN UNTIL IT COULD BE RESTORED INTO A NEW BODY.

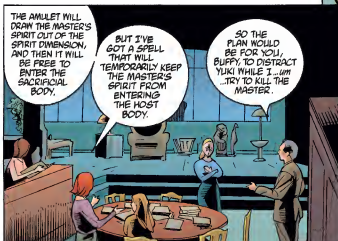
THAT'S WHY WE SUSPECT THAT YUKI HAS A VICTIM--A SACRIFICE, WITH A NEW HOST BODY, AND THE AMULET AS A BRIDGE TO THE DIMENSION WHERE THE MASTER'S SPIRIT RESIDES...



BUT TARA AND I THINK WE HAVE A SOLUTION.

SOLUTIONS ARE GOOD.





THE AMULET WILL DRAW THE MASTER'S SPIRIT OUT OF THE SPIRIT DIMENSION, AND THEN IT WILL BE FREE TO ENTER THE SACRIFICIAL BODY.

BUT I'VE GOT A SPELL THAT WILL TEMPORARILY KEEP THE MASTER'S SPIRIT FROM ENTERING THE HOST BODY.

SO THE PLAN WOULD BE FOR YOU, BUFFY, TO DISTRACT YUKI WHILE I...UM...TRY TO KILL THE MASTER.

HOLD ON. WHY DON'T I JUST KILL YUKI AND SEND THE MASTER BACK TO THIS SPIRIT DIMENSION MYSELF?



WELL, YOU SEE, IT'S A BIT MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT...

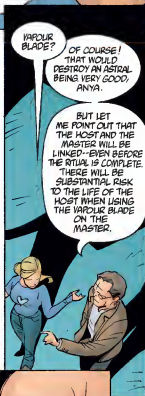


WE DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THIS SPELL WILL KEEP THE MASTER FROM ENTERING THE HOST, SO WE HAVE TO ACT FAST.

YOU'LL HAVE YOUR HANDS FULL WITH YUKI. AND, BESIDES, KILLING AN ASTRAL BODY IS PRETTY TRICKY STUFF.



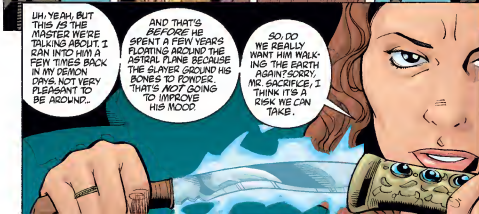
HOW ABOUT A VAPOUR BLADE?



VAPOUR BLADE?

OF COURSE! THAT WOULD DESTROY AN ASTRAL BEING VERY GOOD, ANYA.

BUT LET ME POINT OUT THAT THE HOST AND THE MASTER WILL BE LINKED--EVEN BEFORE THE RITUAL IS COMPLETE. THERE WILL BE SUBSTANTIAL RISK TO THE LIFE OF THE HOST WHEN USING THE VAPOUR BLADE ON THE MASTER.



UH, YEAH, BUT THIS IS THE MASTER WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. I RAN INTO HIM A FEW TIMES BACK IN MY DEMON DAYS. NOT VERY PLEASANT TO BE AROUND...

AND THAT'S BEFORE HE SPENT A FEW YEARS FLOATING AROUND THE ASTRAL PLANE BECAUSE THE SLAYER GROUND HIS BONES TO POWDER. THAT'S NOT GOING TO IMPROVE HIS MOOD.

SO, DO WE REALLY WANT HIM WALKING THE EARTH AGAIN? SORRY, MR. SACRIFICE, I THINK IT'S A RISK WE CAN TAKE.







NOT
XANDER...

YOU
MIGHT HAVE BEEN A
VAMPIRE SLAYER IN
THE PAST, BUT YOUR
FUTURE IS ALL
DUST.



STUPID MONKS. HOW
'BOUT I SHOW YOU SOME
ENLIGHTENMENT IN THE
FORM OF A RIGHT
PROPER BEATING?



O ISIS, GREAT
MOTHER AND
PROTECTOR...

...OPEN YOUR
KINDNESS AND
SEAL THIS MORTAL
VESSEL.



LET'S GET
THIS OVER
WITH.



HOW'S THAT FEEL, MATE?



NICE SHOT, BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO KILL ME WITH THAT. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO KILL ME AT ALL.

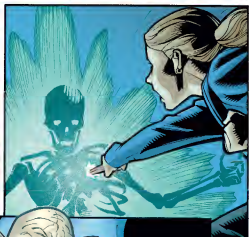
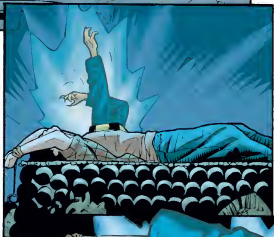
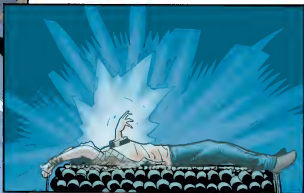


TRAITOR. YOU HAVE NO HONOR.

YEAH, WELL, YOU'RE ALL A BUNCH OF WANKERS.

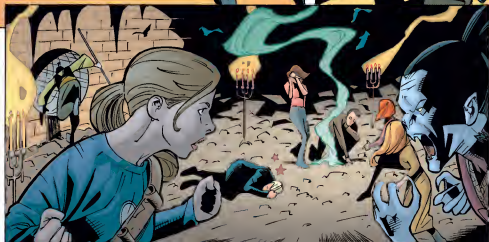


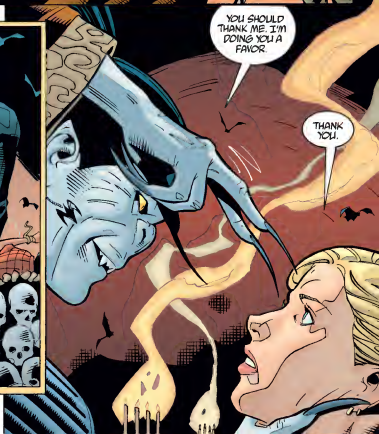
HEAR OUR HUMBLE REQUEST. KNOW OUR WILL...

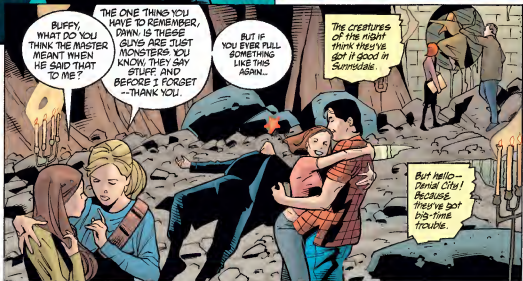
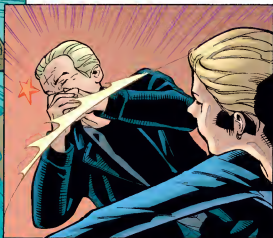


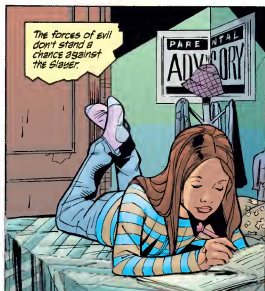




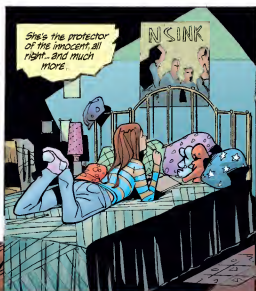








The forces of evil
don't stand a
chance against
the Slayer.



She's the protector
of the innocent, all
right... and much
more.



DAMN! HOW
MANY TIMES DO
I HAVE TO TELL YOU?
NO BORROWING MY
CLOTHES!



She's my
sister.

THE
END







Buffy

the vampire slayer™

OMNIBUS

Volume Six of the *Buffy Omnibus* series delves further into the lives of Buffy and her closest friends—Willow, Xander, and Giles.

As Season Four gives way to Season Five, Buffy and Angel must reunite in Los Angeles to fight a cruel enemy from Angelus's past, and battle some internal demons of their own in Christopher Golden and Tom Sniegoski's *Buffy/Angel* crossover "Past Lives." Meanwhile, things really heat up between Buffy and her sometime flame, Riley Finn. Willow and Tara's relationship blossoms, and Dawn suddenly enters the scene a demanding teenager whose very existence causes Buffy and her friends to question their own memories.

Jane Espenson—television writer of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Battlestar Galactica*—pens the hilarious spy thriller "Jonathan—Codename: Comrades," and Golden teams with Eric Powell (*The Goon*) to explore Giles's mysterious past in "Beyond the Pale."

The *Buffy Omnibus* books collect multiple specials, one-shots, and mini-series that run chronologically with the TV series' timeline, providing a valuable companion to Joss Whedon's Season Eight comics.

